large gap in our literature and should be found on the operating table as well as the pre-operative consulting room of all general ophthalmic surgeons who set out to treat a case of retinal detachment no matter how simple it may at first appear.

JOHN SCOTT

Physiological Aspects of Clinical Neuro-Ophthalmology. Eds C Kennard, F Clifford Rose. Pp 482. £35. Chapman and Hall: London, 1988.

Regular symposium attenders will be familiar with the two major problems (apart from speakers failing to turn up) inherent in the format. The first is the variability in content, interest, and presentation between speakers, and the second is the tendency to repetition, especially when the subject is relatively small print to start with. Neither of these problems has been wholly avoided in the book resulting from the meeting in July 1986 on physiological aspects of clinical neuro-ophthalmology. There are 42 contributors, about ¾ from Europe and the remainder from the USA. The idea was to allow a discussion of areas of common interest between neuroscientists, responsible for an ever expanding volume of research into the visual system, and neurologists and ophthalmologists trying to assimilate this information into clinical practice.

The book is divided into two major sections on the visual pathways and ocular motor system, with smaller sections on the pupil, fundus, and optic nerve. Over half the chapters are from basic scientists, and among the clinicians there are only a handful of ophthalmologists. The two major sections are the most successful, though both suffer from repetition. There are excellent chapters on psychophysical testing of visual function, the optic chiasm, and the fascinating phenomenon of 'blind sight' or residual vision following lesions of the retro-geniculate pathways. Both the scientists and clinicians come out well in the section on the oculomotor system. As an abstractor on this subject for *Ophthalmic Literature* I am sometimes driven to distraction by the literary incompetence of the oculomotor physiologists, and it is a relief to read a clear, concise and

jargon-free paper such as Dr Keller's on cerebellar involvement in smooth pursuit eye movements. Guntrum Kommerell provides a stimulating chapter on oculomotor phenomona in infantile strabismus, proper recognition that this mysterious condition is of neuro-ophthalmic concern.

The sections on the pupil and fundus and the optic nerve I found less satisfying. There is, however, an admirably clear and succinct chapter on the pathogenesis of optic disc oedema from Professor Hayreh and a stimulating contribution from Iain McDonald.

The authors assembled a formidable cast for their symposium and on the whole they have been well served in the resulting book. I would recommend it as an excellent update on the subject, and a valuable source of reference for further reading.

JOHN S ELSTON

Statistics with Confidence: Confidence Intervals and Statistical Guidelines. By Martin J Gardner and Douglas G Altman. Pp 140. £7.95. British Medical Journal: London. 1989.

A number of medical journals and in particular the *BMJ* are laying increasing emphasis on the expression of confidence intervals as a means of indicating the importance to be attached to the numerical values of results, rather than the simple expression of a significance test based on the null hypothesis. This book arises from a collection of articles in the *BMJ* outlining the methods of calculating confidence intervals in a large number of situations, including some non-parametric statistics. A certain basic knowledge of statistics is necessary, but the calculations are set out as simply as possible and, used with care, should be accessible to most research workers. The orientation is primarily towards clinical research. A later chapter gives succinct guide lines on the correct use of statistics, making it clear that an understanding of statistical principles is essential. Consultation with a statistician is essential in planning a stage of any complicated project, to ensure that data collection has been valid when the stage of statistical analysis is reached.

The book suffers from certain defects inherent in any text derived from a series of self contained articles. In spite of some connecting paragraphs there is an uncomfortable feeling of discontinuity. That said, it can be widely recommended to all but the most accomplished statisticians, as it contains many methods of handling data with the aim of obtaining confidence intervals, which are not found in the short and more readable texts in common use. It will prove invaluable to all currently engaged in clinical investigation and treatment trials.

D W HILL

Ocular Pathology: A Colour Atlas. By Myron Yanoff and Ben S Fine. Pp 248. £50. Gower: London, 1988.

This book is a well illustrated synopsis of ocular pathology which serves as an introductory text and as an atlas to accompany a more detailed textbook. It should be of value to candidates studying for the diploma in ophthalmology or the College of Ophthalmology examinations and it is competitively priced. The book is open to criticism in that there is no attempt to differentiate between the common and rare entities, and the bibliography is in parts dated. Otherwise it is a pleasure to recommend this colourful and attractive book.

WILLIAM R LEE

Ophthalmic Surgical Procedures. By Peter S Hersh. Pp 416. £45. Churchill Livingstone: Edingburgh, 1989.

This book is intended as a speedy reference covering common ophthalmic procedures and giving step by step instructions. It reflects accurately techniques as practised in the United States, and its references are limited almost entirely to United States sources. Very wide spacing round text and illustrations is intended to allow annotation and updating by the reader. It is a useful summary and tabulated guide for the ophthalmic surgeon, but does not encompass orbital surgery.

M ROPER-HALL