Brit. J. Ophthal. (1953) **37**, 573.

BOOK REVIEWS

Physiology of the Eye. Vol. II. Vision. By ARTHUR LINKSZ. 1952. Pp. 869, 248 figs, bibl. Gruner and Stratton, New York. (£7 12*s.*; $19).

Those who have had the experience of reading the first volume of Linksz's " Physiology of the Eye " will be delighted to welcome the appearance of the second. The first volume dealt with optics; the second, which deals with the physiology of vision, is equally delightful to read, equally original in its presentation, and equally provocative in its message. The cultural background of the author is everywhere apparent—Europe, Prague, and Hering—but, although bias may occasionally exist, common sense is everywhere, tradition for its own sake is thrown overboard, and originality abounds.

The first section (eight chapters) which comprises a general analysis of sensation, is largely occupied by a discussion of the sensations of light and colour. The second section deals with the appreciation of pattern and detail, and problems of visual acuity. Linksz does not give the " form sense " the status of a specific " sense "—and his reasons are good. The third section discusses the perception of spatial relationships, including such problems as the geometry of the horopter, true and anomalous correspondences, aniseikonia, and so on. The last section deals in considerable detail with the oculo-rotatory reflexes and their relation to vision. This is a book which ought to be read—and read slowly—by everyone interested in the complex and fascinating problems of the physiology and psychology of vision.

Cortisone and ACTH in Clinical Practice. Edited by W. S. C. COPEMAN. 1953. Butterworth, London. Pp. 255, 29 figs, bibl. (25*s.*)

This book gives a concise survey of the present position of cortisone and ACTH therapy. Each section has been written by a specialist in one particular branch of the subject, and the references at the end of each provide adequate opportunity for further reading and form a representative selection from the current literature.

The editor has written the section on the rheumatic and collagen diseases himself, and combines a review of modern trends in treatment with an account of his own wide clinical and research experience in this field. The cautionary note on which the section concludes indicates the difficulties encountered in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, and the disappointments which sometimes follow the withdrawal of the hormone.

F. Dudley Hart, in the section on endocrine disorder, pays particular attention to the use of cortisone in Addison's disease and Simmonds's disease, in which conditions it constitutes orthodox therapy. The results in thyrotoxicosis and thyrotropic exophthalmic ophthalmoplegia are too variable for significant claims to be established.

Sections in which respiratory, allergic, and skin diseases, and disorders of the hæmopoietic system, are fully discussed in relation to cortisone and ACTH maintain the emphasis on the value of these hormones and their limitations.

Sorsby and Savory, in the section on ocular diseases, quote experimental investigations into the concentration of cortisone in the aqueous and vitreous after local and systemic administration, and after the systemic administration of ACTH. In considering the clinical aspects of treatment with cortisone and ACTH, they give a detailed account of the methods of local and systemic administration, and a very guarded report of the value of this treatment in various ocular diseases. Although there are many conditions of the eye in which cortisone is of no assistance, and a few in which it is actually dangerous, increasing experience of its use indicates that the views of these authors are to some extent unduly pessimistic.