therapeutics and surgical techniques, and medico-legal problems. A feature of the book is its format; it is loose-leaved, apparently well and firmly bound, and it is the intention to supply, annually further leaves embodying improvements in the text and adding information on new advances in knowledge which have accrued during the year. It will be interesting to see how this unusual and potentially valuable procedure works out in practice.


This volume contains a discursive account of some of the more common diagnostic procedures used in ophthalmology, emphasis being placed on morphological descriptions rather than on the more difficult medical problems. The arrangement of the subject matter is unusual and perplexing. The first half of the book provides examples of diagnostic procedures; the second is comprised of "essays in which further comment is elaborated" in certain clinical conditions. The result is somewhat confusing to the reader owing to the duplication and separation of cognate subjects. Thus the phlyctenule occupies seven lines on p. 79 in the first part, where there is a very short note on its clinical appearance, the surrounding vascularity, its pathology, and its clinical termination as an ulcer; it also receives seven lines on p. 251 in the second half (not listed in the index), where essentially the same information is given in much the same words. The absence of reference to such procedures as slit-lamp ophthalmoscopy might be forgiven, but it seems strange that a book on ophthalmological diagnosis contains nothing on gonioscopy or the measurement of the ocular tension. Glaucoma, one of the major problems in ophthalmological diagnosis, according to the inadequate index receives mention on two pages only, although a considerable amount of space is devoted elsewhere to the visual fields and the appearance of the disc in this disease. The diagnostic procedures now used as a routine in the differentiation of the various types of uveitis receive inadequate mention, and yet 31 pages are devoted to the comparatively unimportant subject of the morphology of cataract. The illustrations are ultra-functional, and some of them, although they may not convey an adequate clinical picture, certainly do not lack originality.


Although, obviously from its title, not primarily ophthalmological in outlook, this book will nevertheless be of great interest to those ophthalmic surgeons whose outlook is not circumscribed in the few cubic inches occupied by the globe and its immediate surroundings. Based on the author's very considerable experience and an obviously intensive study of the relevant literature, it provides a conspectus of the physiology of the thyroid gland in health, and its pathology, clinical effects, and treatment in disease, with which are integrated its mutual relationships with other components of the endocrine system and its response, with these, to Selye's concept of the stress syndrome. The critical reader may perhaps find some of the arguments, pathologically and functionally, not sufficiently well supported and documented to be entirely convincing, but they are at least persuasive and very stimulating. To the ophthalmologist, chapter 22 (58 pages) on exophthalmos will be perhaps the most interesting; the author does not entirely follow the present orthodox (and possibly ephemeral) views on pathogenesis and treatment, but those he gives, based on his personal views as to the generalized disorder of function of the whole endocrine system, are at least rational, and are as logical as any now current in the approach to what may be one of the ophthalmologist's most worrying problems.

The whole book well repays perusal; it is impossible to speak too highly of its production. The format is excellent and the illustrations superb.