BOOK REVIEWS


In the tradition of the French Ophthalmological Society Reports this treatise goes into its subject with great thoroughness. It commences by way of introduction with a short chapter on physical optics and then considers the transparency of the normal cornea. In this, the longest section, the anatomy, chemistry, and optical properties of the cornea are considered in turn, and the mechanism of the control of its hydration and its relationship to metabolism and nutrition are discussed. The text is enriched by the authors' original observations, particularly on comparative anatomy.

The second main section considers the physiology and pathology of corneal disturbances, with chapters on oedema, vascularization, and scar formation, and a further chapter on the metabolism of corneal grafts. The third section, which relates this to clinical observations in corneal disease, is divided into eight chapters, including one on the opacification of grafts. A last section deals with the principles of treatment for these conditions.

The references to the literature, which number over 1,000, are up to the minute, and these have clearly been studied by the authors for there appear to be remarkably few errors of fact for a volume of 700 pages. The treatment is encyclopaedic and tends to caution rather than criticism. Even so, the reviewer cannot agree with all the positions adopted by the authors. The book is richly illustrated and includes several hundred plates, 8 in colour, made up of original photographs, photomicrographs, and electron micrographs.

This volume will form an invaluable work of reference for years to come.


This book contains a series of unrelated articles describing the most interesting subjects of ophthalmic investigation in the Department of Ophthalmology in Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri. The coverage is wide. As would be expected from this clinic, there is much on tonography, its theory and practice, and a paper on ophthalmodynamography. Clinical subjects are represented by a discussion on diabetic retinopathy, the ocular complications of rubella, and the ocular manifestations of metabolic diseases, including homocystinuria. Papers on therapeutics include the use of systemic steroids in post-cataract endophthalmitis and the production of glaucoma after their topical application, and of urokinase in traumatic hyphaemata. Surgery is represented by several papers, including the extraction of cataract in glaucoma, the cryogenic extraction of the lens, the use of plantaris tendon in retinal detachment, and the treatment of blow-out fractures of the orbital floor. There is an interesting account of astigmatism produced by contact lenses, and also an account of sensory adaptation in concomitant strabismus. All the papers are good and provide interesting discursive reading; on the whole, Bernard Becker and his team are to be congratulated on their industry.


A report of the Second Congress of the European Society of Ophthalmology held in Vienna in 1964, when the interest of the papers centred on tumours of the eye and adnexa. It is not proposed to review the contents of the papers as many of them will have been published elsewhere, but those interested in having them in one volume are advised to refer to this publication.