

Book reviews

La papille optique (The Optic Nerve Head). By G. BONAMOUR, M. BONNET, P. BRÉGEAT, and P. JUGE. 1968. Pp. 531, 227 figs, 15 col. pl., bibl. Masson, Paris. (*Fr. frs* 150)

It is difficult to imagine a book of 531 pages devoted exclusively to the optic nerve head, yet the four authors of *La papille optique* have achieved just such a feat. Nor is the text padded with irrelevant information, nor is it repetitive. Instead we are presented with a well-planned and carefully documented survey of the literature on all aspects of the optic disc, normal and pathological. The subject lends itself to illustration and there are many excellent photographs both in monochrome and colour. Fluorescein angiography and visual fields are added where needed. There is a complete and vast bibliography drawn from the world literature at the end of each section, and as a work of reference the book is a neuro-ophthalmologist's dream. Even in areas which are tenuous and debatable, such as virus infections of the optic nerve, the teaching is sound and eminently sensible. As Paufique states in the preface—"Voilà un beau livre qui fait honneur à l'Ophthalmologie française". We feel constrained to add in the idiomatic vernacular of the sixties—"He can say that again".

Le décollement de la rétine (Retinal Detachment). By A. URRETS-ZAVALIA, JR. 1968. Pp. 713, 314 figs, 8 col. pl., bibl. Masson, Paris. (*Fr. frs* 230)

It is some considerable time since a completely new book has appeared in which retinal detachments are considered in detail from the aetiological, diagnostic, and therapeutic standpoints. In the present volume the author has given an account of the present outlook upon retinal detachments in a well-written and systematic text, supported by adequate references and a full bibliography. The black-and-white and coloured illustrations maintain the high standard set in the text, and have been well chosen to indicate the histological changes and clinical appearances in retinal disease. The documentation of the findings following clinical examination, the salient features of operative techniques, and the mechanism of their effects.

For a book published in 1968 to include references as recent as 1966 is a commendable reflection upon the determination of both author and publishers to keep abreast of modern developments.

As a full exposition of the subject as it is at present understood the book leaves little to be desired. As a reference work for surgeons specializing in retinal detachments it must be invaluable.

The Young Handicapped Child. By A. H. BOWLEY and L. GARDNER. 2nd ed. 1969. Pp. 167, 11 figs, refs. Livingstone, Edinburgh. (30s.)

This book on the young handicapped child is divided into four parts—the cerebral palsied child, the deaf child, the blind child, and the autistic child. Cerebral palsy is the result of faulty controlling mechanisms in the brain which cause so many different forms of handicap that each child tends to represent a special problem which embraces the skills of the paediatrician, the neurologist, the otologist, the ophthalmologist, the psychologist, and the educationalist, quite apart from the involvement of the child and his parents in the rehabilitating process. The urgent need to solve the special problems in each individual case is the fact that about 50 per cent. of cerebral palsied children have a potential to develop a more or less normal intelligence and the care which is extended to such a handicapped child is surely one of the "hallmarks" of a civilized society.

The authors' approach to the management of these four groups of handicapped children is essentially of a practical nature, and information and advice are given in a clear and concise manner so that the book provides a helpful analysis of the problems of such children without becoming too deeply involved in the more complex medical aspects of the conditions.