

Diseases of the Canine Eye. By F. G. STARTUP. 1969. Pp. 338, 335 figs, 48 col. pl. Baillière, Tindall and Cassell, London. (130s.)

There is no doubt that there are great gaps in our knowledge of veterinary surgery and equally great gaps in the literature thereon, but it is certainly the case that within the last two decades considerable advances have been made. These will be found in this volume which takes the whole subject extensively. Such a book will be almost indispensable for the veterinary surgeon, but for the ophthalmic surgeon (who is often called in to see this type of case) it will be of considerable interest, particularly those aspects of canine ophthalmology which resemble human ophthalmology. The illustrations are profuse and good and there is a useful bibliography.

Blind and Partially Sighted Children. By S. R. FINE. 1968. Education Survey 4. Dept of Education and Science. Pp. 43, 4 figs, 17 tabl. H.M.S.O., London. (6s.)

This survey of blind and partially sighted children, carried out in the years 1962–1965, is divided into two groups: the first comprising those children born between 1951 and 1955 when there was a high prevalence of retrolental fibroplasia and the second those born between 1956 and 1960. It is shown that, after retrolental fibroplasia, optic atrophy and cataract, each contributing over 20 per cent., were the major causes of blindness in children. Diseases of the retina and choroid, colobomata and other developmental defects, tumour, buphthalmos, and uveitis were other major causes of ocular defects in children. Half the blind children, if one excludes retrolental fibroplasia, are blind from conditions of unknown aetiology. Cataract was the condition in which the family history was most evident. Diseases of the retina and choroid were more marked in boys. Nystagmus was present in a few cases. Some of the partially sighted children were thought by their teachers to have better vision than admitted. Mobility among blind children tends to be related to general intelligence. Many of the children had an intelligence quotient of 100–114. About half of the blind children had additional handicaps such as defective intelligence, physical disability, hearing loss, speech difficulty, and epilepsy. Most children were taught Braille but this was not possible in some. The home conditions of these children are considered.

Physiology of the Pathways and Centres of Vision (Physiologie des voies et des centres visuels). By M. STÉRIADE. 1969. Pp. 188, 85 figs. Masson, Paris. (60 Fr. frs)

This is an important and interesting survey of the neurophysiology of the optic nerves, chiasma and tracts, the external geniculate body, the tectal and pretectal regions, the optic radiations, and the visual cortex. The electrical activities of these regions, both spontaneous and resulting from stimulation by mechanical, electrical, or photic factors, are fully discussed. The secondary responses to stimulation which occur outside the visual pathways, in such regions as the thalamus, the cerebellum, and the non-visual areas of the cortex, are analysed. These vary considerably with the type of experimental animal, such as rodents, carnivores, or primates, until in man some 85 per cent of the cortex is involved. Similarly, the mutual effect of these variegated stimuli and the inhibitory mechanisms that come into play are described in detail. The monograph is good and the details of the subject are assessed in an interesting manner. The steadily growing recent literature is reviewed and a valuable bibliography is appended.