Book reviews


This volume, primarily by Emanuel Rosen, a senior ophthalmic registrar at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, is an excellent production. There is no doubt that since it was first introduced only 9 years ago fluorescence photography of the fundus has developed with unusual rapidity into becoming one of the most useful techniques in the study and diagnosis of retinal diseases, and is consequently of use not only to the ophthalmologist but also to the physician. Our knowledge of the technique and its potentialities in a vast number of retinal diseases, particularly those affecting the macula and the pigmentary epithelium, vascular and inflammatory diseases, and detachments of the choroid and retina, are illustrated in detail with the utmost clarity, and it is interesting to observe how often fundus fluoroscopy at once clarifies the nature of a condition which might give rise to doubt with a simple ophthalmoscopic examination. The production of the book is excellent and the photographs equally good.


A review has already appeared in this Journal of The Atlas of the Fundus of the Eye by Hans-Walther Larsen of Copenhagen which appeared in 1964; the present volume may be looked upon as a second and enlarged edition of this and is equally excellent. The format has changed for, instead of being a simple atlas, the first part of the volume discusses the descriptions and diagnoses of the various conditions with many references to the figures which constitute its second half. This is copiously illustrated with coloured photographs of outstanding excellence, and includes not only the common diseases of the fundus but a number of rare conditions seen by the author, all of them accompanied by useful clinical notes on the particular case illustrated. At present we know of no atlas so good and comprehensive and the author and, incidentally, the publishers are to be congratulated.


It is good to see that the spirit of the enormous Graefe-Saemisch Handbuch with its three editions and the shorter Kurzes Handbuch der Ophthalmologie is being continued in German literature by the publication of a second edition of the series of volumes which embrace all ophthalmology, edited by Karl Velhagen. The first volume is considerably larger than its predecessor and the contents have been rearranged with a great deal of improvement. The book is the work of several authorities. Nine well-known authorities have contributed to the subjects of anatomy (Rohen), the physiology of the light-sense (Monje), physiological chemistry (Pau and Graeber), pharmacology (Velhagen and Graupner), the general management of the ophthalmic patient (Velhagen), methods of examination, including those applicable to the external eye, the anterior chamber and the pupil, the orbit and the fundus, as well as diaphanoscopy, ophthalmodynamometry, and photography (Heydenreich), the exploration of the visual fields (Schober), the light sense (Comberg and Heydenreich), and colour vision (Heydenreich). In reviewing the first edition of this series in this Journal we said it was good; the second edition is better and very well produced with excellent illustrations. Each subject is treated comprehensively and each section includes a bibliography dealing largely with recent literature. The series ought to be of great value to German readers.