

This textbook is of the highest calibre; it is as vital for the ophthalmologist with an interest in neurology as for the neurologist with ocular interests, and serves to emphasize the common ground of these two specialties. The elaboration of the science of neurophysiology, biochemistry, and genetics, and the introduction of electron microscopy, pupillography, and electromyography makes this text an excellent launching pad for the next decade. The breadth and depth of the subject matter and the extensive bibliography make this work the definitive reference book on neuro-ophthalmology for all libraries, ophthalmic hospitals, and ophthalmic departments.

The main disadvantage is the exorbitant price (£55) which will put this textbook out of the range of many prospective purchasers. Furthermore, the size and weight (19 lbs) make transportation difficult and will restrict its use either to libraries or to the confines of the study!

However, without reservation, I recommend an investment in this book which will impart to the owner some of the enthusiasm and fascination for this unique specialty, which has inspired the authors throughout their Herculean venture.

Handbook of Ocular Therapeutics and Pharmacology. 3rd ed. By P. P. ELLIS and D. L. SMITH. 1969. Pp. 251, refs. Mosby, St. Louis; Kimpton, London. (97s.)

The book is divided into two main sections. The first opens with a description of the factors governing the preparation of drops and ointments with general considerations such as drug penetration and toxicity. It is pointed out that most eyedrops and ointments used in the United States are now commercially prepared and sold already packaged in suitable containers, droppers, etc.

Several chapters deal with the principles of the main types of therapy: steroids, antibiotics, and agents acting on the autonomic nervous system. Following this is a series of chapters dealing with the therapy of the principal ocular diseases from an anatomical and pathological point of view. Thus there are, for example, chapters on diseases of the lids, conjunctiva, and lacrimal apparatus, and on glaucoma, infections, and optic neuritis.

The second section comprises an alphabetically arranged list of all the usual drugs encountered in ophthalmology with pharmacological notes on each.

This is a valuable work of reference which every ophthalmologist would appreciate in the consulting room and it is particularly recommended for hospital residents who need quick access to accurate and well-advised information on their many therapeutic problems. One of the most pleasing things about the book is the wealth of factual material, such as the dosage and mode of administration of drugs.

Symposium on Retina and Retinal Surgery. NEW ORLEANS ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY. 1969. Pp. 406, 372 figs, 12 col. pl., refs. Mosby, St. Louis; Kimpton, London. (265s.)

One method of keeping abreast of current developments in one's subject is to attend symposia on specialized topics or to read the papers presented at such symposia. The New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology organized a symposium on the retina and retinal surgery in 1968, emphasis being placed on the practical aspects of this subject. The 22 papers which were presented, and the round-table discussion which followed, cover several aspects of retinal surgery in which recent advances have been made.

Several speakers discussed the examination of the peripheral retina and vitreous, and the various forms of degeneration which may occur in these structures, while the several techniques for producing choroido-retinal adhesion were discussed and compared. The current management of difficult types of retinal detachment (giant retinal breaks, massive preretinal fibroplasia, diabetic detachment) are described and it is encouraging to read that these types, which until recently were considered virtually untreatable, are now amenable to therapy, albeit complicated therapy at times.

As Schepens indicated in his paper on the evolution of concepts related to retinal detachment, we have come a long way since Gonin's original work on the sealing of retinal breaks. Anatomical

re-attachment of the retina can now be achieved in a high percentage of cases. It is to be hoped that in future symposia of this type we shall be equally encouraged by the functional results that at present elude us in so many cases.

Any surgeon interested in the treatment of retinal detachments will find much stimulating material in this volume.

Précis d'ophtalmologie. BY H. SARAUX and B. BIAIS. 1969. Pp. 978, 528 figs, 3 col. pl., bibl. Masson, Paris. (NE150)

This new textbook of ophthalmology is divided into six parts: methods of examination, diseases of the eye and adnexa, neuro-ophthalmology, the eye and general disease, trauma, and therapy. The subject is covered succinctly and in an up-to-date manner and is suitable for the junior ophthalmologist requiring a textbook in French. The illustrations vary considerably in quality and there are several misprints in the text. In spite of these minor criticisms, which it is hoped will be corrected in future editions, this book is a useful addition to French ophthalmic literature.

Proceedings of the Centennial Symposium, Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital. Vol. 1. Ophthalmology. Edited by A. I. TURTZ. 1969. Pp. 331, 247 figs, refs. Mosby, St. Louis; Kimpton, London. (247s.)

This symposium was designed in honour of the Centennial Anniversary of the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, supported by financial grants from two foundations. The book, which is rather expensive, although it is most successful in giving authoritative views on many of the chief growing points in our subject, is divided into six sections: (1) New concepts in ocular therapy, (2) Controversial areas in ocular surgery, (3) Paediatric ophthalmic problems, (4) Ophthalmic plastic surgery, (5) New techniques in ophthalmology, (6) Complications in ocular surgery.

The 32 subsections naturally vary in quality and detail, but they are of special value in keeping the general ophthalmic surgeon abreast of recent developments, and the specialist in touch with fields other than his own.

The symposium was obviously planned with imagination and intelligence, and is a credit not only to the participants but also to the great hospital which it was called to honour.

Parson's Diseases of the Eye. 15th ed. By S. DUKE-ELDER. 1969. Pp. 597, 453 figs, 21 col. pl. Churchill, London. (75s.)

The publication of the 15th edition of this work is in itself a tribute to its continuing and well-deserved popularity. Short of being a text-book, it provides a comprehensive and lucid guide to practically the whole field of ophthalmology. It is most useful perhaps to ophthalmic house-surgeons, especially to those aspiring to ophthalmology as a career, who will find therein a basic guide to the first principles of approach and basic information on a very wide range of ocular malfunction and disease. It is equally valuable as a source of reference to casualty officers, general practitioners, and, indeed, to any who wish a concise and clear exposition of some problem or disease with which they are not familiar.

This new edition, appearing some 5 years after its predecessor, has been extensively amended to keep up to date with current trends and developments, particularly perhaps in the field of the various retinopathies, and equally successfully elsewhere.

The production is well up to the high standard we have come to expect of its publishers, who surely must also be warmly complimented on having been able to keep the price within such reasonable bounds. The paper-back E.L.B.S. (English Language Book Society) edition at 35s. (£1.75 decimal), while obviously not so durable for library use, is a quite outstanding bargain.