

Book reviews

Recent Research on the Retina. Edited by E. S. PERKINS. 1970. *Brit. med. Bull.*, 26, May, Pp. 99-184.

The May issue of the *British Medical Bulletin*, entirely devoted to recent research on the retina, is of great interest to ophthalmologists, pathologists, and physiologists; Professor Perkins acted as Scientific Editor. The comprehensive introduction is by Norman Ashton, who also contributed the first article on retinal angiogenesis in the human embryo, and a later article on the pathology and physiology of cotton-wool spots. There are papers on the ultrastructure of the retina (Pedler and Young), receptor potentials (Arden), the metabolism of the retina (Graymore), the optical properties of the photoreceptors (Weale), recent work on visual pigments (Dartnall), and their anomalies in colour-defective subjects (Rushton). Fluorescence angiography is described in general terms (Hill) and particularly in diabetic retinopathy (Kohner and Dollery). The pathology of diabetic retinopathy is discussed by Garner, its experimental production by Heath, and the management of oxygen therapy to premature infants to prevent the development of retrolental fibroplasia by Baum and Tizard. The lesions produced by laser irradiation are described by Marshall and Mellerio. Comparative studies are also included, of deep-sea fishes (Locket) and of the avian retina (Cowan).

The subjects are well chosen, for in each there has been much fundamental research in the last decade, producing results of unusual interest and importance. All the contributors are acknowledged authorities on their various subjects and, as would be expected, the articles are unusually good. This issue of the *Bulletin* is beautifully illustrated and is well worth reading.

Occupational and Medicative Hazards in Ophthalmology (III Congress of the European Society of Ophthalmology, Amsterdam. 1968). Edited by J. FRANÇOIS. 1969. Pp. 722, 211 figs, bibl. Karger, Basel. (£15)

This volume contains reports of the proceedings of the 3rd Congress of the European Society of Ophthalmology, which was held in Amsterdam in 1968. The majority of the papers are concerned with ocular injuries resulting from industrial processes or from environmental conditions such as high altitude, ultra-violet light, and even space travel. Electrical injuries, chemical burns, the problems of visual fatigue, and methods of prevention of industrial injuries are described. Numerous papers describe the ocular changes resulting from treatment with drugs such as chloroquine.

It is difficult to single out papers for individual mention from the 83 presented, particularly as many of them are reviews or summaries of previous work. Most ophthalmologists will find articles of interest in this volume and it should certainly be consulted by those who are concerned with industrial ophthalmology.

The book is well produced and there are English summaries of the papers.

The Eye. Vol. 1. Vegetative Physiology and Biochemistry. Edited by H. DAVSON. 2nd ed., 1969. Pp. 679, figs, bibl. Academic Press, New York and London. (\$26)

We are all indebted to Dr. Davson and his collaborators for the second edition of this volume, which originally appeared in 1962. One chapter which was contained in the first edition (on comparative anatomy of the vascular supply) has been omitted, but the remainder have all been revised and largely re-written, and there is an entirely new chapter on "General Aspects of Retinal Metabolism" by C. N. Graymore. The other major addition is a chapter on "The Lens: Function and Macromolecular Composition" (S. G. Waley), "Lenticular Metabolism and Cataract", as before, being