

Book reviews

The Low Vision Patient. By E. E. FAYE. 1970. Pp. 237, figures, bibl. Grune and Stratton, New York. (\$9.75)

This book records the author's experience obtained by dealing with over 6,000 visually handicapped patients at a clinic devoted to the problems of these people organized by the New York Association for the Blind. The term "subnormal vision" is discussed at some length, and much of the book is concerned with refraction and the use of visual aids in those with poor vision. The common causes of subnormal vision are briefly discussed and made more interesting by illustrative case histories.

The section on subnormal vision in the child is by far the best part of the book. The importance of an accurate history from the parents and of a complete general examination of the child is stressed, and there is an excellent discussion on the schooling of such children and their integration into the community.

This is not a technical account, and would be best appreciated by the optician who specializes in low vision aids, by the social worker concerned with the welfare of the blind, and by the physician and paediatrician, although most ophthalmologists would also learn a lot from it. The book should certainly be available to all who deal with visually handicapped people.

Glaucoma Problems. Edited by W. STRAUB. 1971. Pp. 81, 57 figs, bibl. Ophthalmological Library No. 56, Supplement to *Klin. Mbl. Augenheilk.* Enke, Stuttgart (D.M. 23)

This booklet contains papers read by six authors at an ophthalmological meeting in May, 1970. The light and electron microscopical examinations of Rohen point to the inner wall of the canal of Schlemm as the main site of the outflow resistance of the aqueous in chronic open-angle glaucoma. Sautter, however, localizes the main outflow resistance in the pre-canalicular trabecular network, a view which is supported by the success of goniotomy and trabeculotomy. Sautter favours a more precise diagnosis than chronic open-angle glaucoma, as this is the collective label of dysgenetic, senile, and other changes in the angle. Aulhorn describes the subtle technique of profile perimetry, which allows the early recognition of small spot-like paracentral scotomata; she admits that this test for early glaucoma requires much time and patience. Draeger discusses the principles of tonometry with special reference to his hand applanation tonometer. Leydhecker deals with the drug treatment of glaucoma, and suggests treating the ischaemia of the optic nerve by Ronicol. It appears doubtful whether a drug which dilates the peripheral blood vessels may not produce an undesirable fall in the ocular blood pressure. Witmer discusses the indications and techniques of operations for glaucoma.

This small book is stimulating and imparts much useful information.

Corneal Contact Lenses. Edited by L. J. GIRARD. 2nd ed., 1970. Pp. 348, 373 figs (91 in colour), bibl. Mosby, St. Louis; Kimpton, London (£10.35).

This is the second edition of the popular textbook on corneal lens fitting, which encouraged so many ophthalmologists in the United States to fit contact lenses.

The first edition described a method based upon corneal topography using a modified keratometer. This edition includes a chapter on trial lens fitting, which is possibly the most popular method in Britain. There are additional contributions by a non-medical practitioner.

It must be admitted that technology and the basic sciences are becoming of increasing importance in this specialty. The book has gained by remaining concise and avoiding a discursive approach, and