

the electrical processes in the bipolars and higher up to the red, green, and blue cortical centres. This is illustrated by schematical pictures.

An appendix describes an electric "eye", consisting of photo-electric cells, which transmit optic stimuli to levers acting on the skin. These tactile impressions should enable a blind man to avoid obstacles when walking.

Physiology of the Retina and Visual Pathway. By G. S. BRINDLEY. 2nd ed., 1970. Pp. 315, illus., bibl. Arnold, London (Monographs of the Physiological Society, No. 6). (£4.50)

The second edition of Professor Brindley's book is an important event. There have been enormous advances in visual research in the last 10 years, many of which are incorporated in this monograph. Half of the book is devoted to physiology and half to visual psychophysics.

The new material deals mainly with photochemistry, the early receptor potential, and intracellular records from retinal cells. The central pathways of vision are treated somewhat sketchily. The most important work on the visual cortex (by Hubel and Weisel) is given three pages; the same allocation as is made elsewhere to interesting but inconclusive work on electrical phosphenes. There is little treatment of recent developments in experimental neuroanatomy, and no mention of the psychophysics of binocular vision. Thus, as is admitted in the introduction, the coverage is idiosyncratic, but what is dealt with has authority and distinction.

Stereoscopic Atlas of Slit-lamp Biomicroscopy. Vols I and II. By A. E. BRALEY, R. C. WATZKE, L. ALLEN, and O. FRAZIER. 1970. Pp. 225, 213 figs, 210 stereoscopic views in colour on 30 reels. Mosby, St. Louis; Kimpton, London. (£35.75)

This atlas comprises 210 stereoscopic pairs of slides with accompanying text and pictures. There is also a brief introduction describing the techniques used to prepare the slides. The authors claim that, as most features of the eye are viewed stereoscopically, they are best recorded stereoscopically. Several hundred cases seen in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Iowa have been recorded in this way, and the atlas contains a selection of this material to demonstrate either good teaching cases or rare clinical conditions.

The photographs are grouped according to the structure involved; conjunctiva, cornea, iris, anterior chamber, lens, vitreous, and retina and choroid. Within these groups the order of presentation is completely haphazard but this is a minor irritation. Unlike most atlases this volume does not cover the subject comprehensively and certain conditions receive a disproportionately large representation; there are, for example, five views of a pigmented angle. Other common conditions might have been given more space and the treatment of diabetic changes is disappointing. It is always interesting to view a rare condition, but the authors seem to have chosen a poor case of the rapidly disappearing condition of mustard gas keratopathy as they show a non-specific corneal ulcer and do not demonstrate the classical vessel aneurysms on an otherwise avascular sclera.

As far as technical merit is concerned the series is excellent. Either a broad-beam or a slit-beam is used for illumination, and the former gives the more impressive sensation of depth. The slit-beam views of the angle are excellent but those of the fundus are far less informative. Indeed, without the descriptive text, it would be difficult to know what some pictures represent. Certain subjects lend themselves to beautiful portrayal, particularly the various lens opacities. Two pictures leave a particular impression, one a diabetic cataract and the other of a posterior vitreous detachment.

It is difficult to determine who will be best helped by this book. The experienced ophthalmologist will be interested to see a case of angle recession but will not be edified by an illustration of a dendritic ulcer or of an aqueous flare, whereas the undergraduate would be better served by the latter. There is no doubt that the book should be available to every junior ophthalmologist, but whether it should be placed in the library or the museum is up to the purchaser. The production of this text