

Book reviews

System of Ophthalmology. Edited by S. DUKE-ELDER **Vol. XIV (Parts I and II) Injuries.** By S. DUKE-ELDER and P. A. MACFAUL 1972. Part I: Pp. 743, 690 figs, 26 col. pl., refs. Part II: Pp. 600, 330 figs, 8 col. pl., refs. Kimpton, London. (£17.50)

Volume XIV of the *System of Ophthalmology*, which is devoted to injuries, is divided into two volumes, mechanical injuries being discussed in Part I and non-mechanical injuries in Part II.

Part I comprises 743 pages (excluding a first-class index) and contains 690 illustrations and 26 coloured plates. An introductory section on the nature and incidence of ocular injuries is followed by chapters on mechanical injuries, incised wounds, retained foreign bodies, gun-shot wounds, and the indirect ocular effects of trauma.

Part II is a separate volume of 600 pages with 330 illustrations and 8 coloured plates. The types of injuries discussed are thermal, ultrasonic, electrical, radiational, chemical, and those due to stress. The second half is concerned with the toxic effects of inorganic and organic agents on the various tissues of the eye and on the overall mechanism of vision.

In these days of increasing road casualties and heightening violence Part I is a godsend to the casualty officer whose department is often the victims' first port of call. Staffed by medicine's most junior and least experienced personnel, there should be a large market here for this volume which contains in readily digestible form all that there is to know about ocular injuries, how they occur, what they may do to the eye, and how they may be treated.

Part II should interest medical officers of the armed forces and industry, and forensic experts. The section on toxicology is a veritable monument to iatrogenic disease and should be of particular interest to physicians without whose help it could never have been written, even by Duke-Elder.

Ocular injuries have a wide appeal not only to those who treat them and who use controlled injuries as a therapeutic weapon but also to those whose aim is to unravel the complexities of ocular function and discover how it is selectively disturbed by noxious agents.

As in other volumes of the "*System*", the production by the publisher is of the highest order. Editorially, the staggering features are the logical compactness of the classification of such diverse material and the sustained excellence of the text in classic form and accurate content.

Our Blind Children. Growing and Learning with Them. By B. LOWENFELD. 3rd ed., 1971. Pp. 244, plates, refs. Thomas, Springfield, Ill. (\$8.50)

Blind children growing up in a sighted world face many special problems, and the author discusses these difficulties and methods of overcoming them. Primarily written for parents, social workers, and teachers, this book has much to offer to all who deal with blind children. The psychological development of the blind child, his education, and the special problems that he faces in adolescence are dealt with sympathetically and sensibly. Only a short section is devoted to the child who has other disabilities in addition to his visual handicap but, in spite of this, the third edition of this popular book lives up to its established reputation as a classic in its field.

Multiple Choice Questions for Ophthalmologists. By S. P. B. PERCIVAL. 1972. Pp. 88, bibl. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh and London. (75p)

This useful little book of multiple-choice questions and answers, divided into twelve chapters covering different ophthalmic topics, can be studied with profit by all those working for an examination in ophthalmology. As in all books of this type, the answers given to some questions may not be agreed by all, and Mr. Percival has wisely given some references so that those of us who are inclined to argue may check our facts! This book should be recommended reading for all ophthalmic residents, and indeed for their superiors. It is reasonably priced and there is no excuse not to buy it.