

Advances in Ophthalmology. Vol. 25. Edited by M. J. ROPER-HALL, H. SAUTTER, and E. B. STREIFF. 1972. Pp. 329, 143 figs, refs. Karger, Basel. (£14.75)

This is the 25th volume in the series 'Advances in Ophthalmology' and like the others consists of contributions by various authors on specialist subjects. No topic is taken as a theme, and, as might be expected, the standard of presentation is not consistent.

There are six articles in all, two in English, and four in German. The opening discussion by Wiegelin concerns the blood circulation of the retina and choroid from a haemodynamic point of view. The basic physiological influences at work on both circulations are described, and the suggestion is made that the role of the retinal circulation is not to supply oxygen to the retina, this being adequately done by the choroid, but rather to drain away excess fluid diffusing through from the choroid. François, with characteristic thoroughness, lists and describes the ocular manifestations of the aminoacidopathies. There are over 500 references in this article and it provides a most valuable source of information for postgraduate students.

The four remaining articles are in German and only the first has an English summary. This is a discussion by Papst on the diagnosis and therapy of oculomotor disturbances associated with abnormal innervation and includes Duane's syndrome, the A, V, and X syndromes, and the superior oblique tendon-sheath syndrome. It is a practical article with basic physiology and the English summary is comprehensive.

A short article by Richwein on the pathophysiology of pupillotonus is largely historical and is centred mainly on a discussion of the Holmes-Adie pupil reaction.

Schurman and Voth describe the technique of transfrontal orbitotomy which they recommend for the removal of space-occupying lesions in the orbit; their experience of 61 cases is reviewed and the article has interest from the point of view of the pathology of these lesions.

Lastly, Lemmingson presents his experimental findings on the effects of oxygen on the developing retinal vessels. These experiments in cats are well-known and the illustrations from microscopy *in vivo* provide a dramatic demonstration of oxygen toxicity.

It is probable that only a few English ophthalmologists have a working knowledge of German, and in the absence of English summaries this means that only half the book will be read in England. It must be assumed that on the Continent our colleagues are multilingual, because if they are not, one wonders who is likely to benefit from this volume. All this has probably been considered by the publisher who must have other motives besides the distribution of knowledge. In addition, the lack of uniformity of subject matter means that the book is not designed for the reader interested in a particular theme, especially as most of the articles are representations of work or ideas previously published elsewhere.

Alas, apart from adding to a long and generally good series, this book fills no gaps and cannot therefore be recommended for the individual ophthalmologist.

Exploracion y semiologia ocular. By J. GÁLVEZ MONTES. 1972. Pp. 404, 150 figs (some col.), refs. Editorial Paz Montalvo, Madrid.

This is a general textbook of ophthalmology in Spanish, written for postgraduates specializing in ophthalmology and junior ophthalmic surgeons. It is simple, straightforward, and up-to-date, with a particularly good section on the retina and the assessment of retinal function. There is little on neuro-ophthalmology, however, and surgery is not included. The illustrations are very badly reproduced and are all taken from other sources; a few original well-printed pictures would add much to the attraction of the book, but it is nevertheless likely to become a standard text wherever Spanish is spoken, and these faults can be corrected in future editions.

Diabetic Retinopathy and its Treatment by Light Coagulation. By S. RIASKOFF. 1972. Pp. 336, 130 figs, 1 col. pl., bibl. Junk, The Hague. (100 Dutch Guilders)

This thesis on diabetic retinopathy and its treatment presented for a Doctorate of the University of Rotterdam is published in German. The Bulgarian author who learnt the technique of light