

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

coagulation at Essen under Meyer-Schwickerath, and subsequently worked at the Eye Hospital of the University of Rotterdam, gives an interesting record of the condition which so often leads to partial and total blindness. Since Friedenwald and Thiel dealt with the problems of diabetic retinopathy, electron microscopy, fluorescein angiography, stereo-photography, and electro-ophthalmic methods have contributed to the better understanding of the pathological processes, although we are still ignorant about many aetiological factors. It has been known for a long time that glycosuria alone does not produce a retinopathy. The author accepts the classification of the disease into a relatively benign non-proliferating type, showing microaneurysms, intraretinal haemorrhages, exudates, and oedema, and a malignant proliferative type, which is fraught with the danger of vascular occlusions, massive vitreous haemorrhages, glaucoma, and retinal detachment. It is stated that diabetics with a high cholesterol level in the blood are not so often affected by the proliferative form of the disease.

After a short survey of the treatment by pituitary suppression and regulation of the diet, the author deals extensively with the indications, contraindications, and technique of light coagulation, which often offers the only means of arresting a progressive vascular proliferation. The complications of light coagulation, which can also be very serious, are considered. The decision whether this powerful and dangerous therapeutic weapon should be used is often difficult, and the possibility of macular damage will weigh heavily on the mind of the ophthalmic surgeon. These problems are lucidly discussed in this excellent book.

Eyes and Spectacles. By J. REINER. 1972. Pp. 134, 90 figs, refs. (Bücherei des Augenarztes, No. 59, Suppl. to *Klin. Mbl. Augenheilk.*) Enke, Stuttgart. (£29)

This booklet, which deals with important aspects of the correction of ametropic eyes, has been written by a physicist, and should be a useful volume for the ophthalmic surgeon who is more interested in the medical and surgical problems of his specialty. Nowadays, the prescribing of spectacles plays a great role in his practice. While he need not be a Donders or Gullstrand, he should have some knowledge of ophthalmic optics, such as the influence of the radius of curvature of the anterior and posterior surfaces of the lens, prismatic and chromatic aberration, and the astigmatism which may result from looking through the periphery of a strong lens. The author does not favour the varilux and zoom lenses of sliding refraction, as they offer only a small centre area of the field free from astigmatic distortion and have not replaced bi- or trifocal spectacles. An important chapter is devoted to cataract spectacles.

Corneal Grafting. Edited by T. A. CASEY. 1972. Pp. 329, figs, refs. Butterworths, London. (£10.10)

This interesting and useful book, which surveys the modern approach to corneal grafting in all its aspects, has appeared at a time when the prognosis of the grafted cornea has been improved by the use of more perfect suture materials and the operating microscope. The techniques of grafting in various situations are described by distinguished surgeons in the field with emphasis on the operative complications which may be encountered. Procedures such as refractive keratoplasty and osteodontology are outlined by their exponents, with emphasis on the place of the contact lens in the grafted cornea. The chapters on the anatomical structure of the cornea, the assessment of viability, and the immunological aspects of corneal grafting make rewarding reading. However, there remain areas that are not covered and which require separate emphasis. Herpes simplex keratitis is one of the common causes of visual loss due to permanent corneal scarring and presents problems peculiar to itself, but there is no separate mention of this disease. Moreover only scant attention is paid to the postoperative drug therapy of the grafted patient, a question which may give rise to severe problems in its own right.

This valuable book is well illustrated and is likely to become the standard work on corneal grafting for some time to come.