

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.