

Book reviews

Retinal Diseases in Children. Edited by W. TAsMAN. 1971. Pp. 260, 83 figs (11 col.), bibl. Harper and Row, New York. (\$15)

This book consists of reviews by ten American authors, of various aspects of retinal disease in children. As in all multiple-author books, the contributions are rather uneven. Spaeth's chapter on the lipidoses is outstandingly excellent and up-to-date. There is a useful account of the phakomatoses, and Tasman has given a concise and well-illustrated survey of the present status of retrolental fibroplasia. Many British ophthalmologists, however, would disagree with Ellsworth's views on the management of retinoblastoma, and it is a pity that no list of references is given at the end of this chapter. The problems of congenital retinal disease, retinal detachment in childhood, juvenile macular degenerations, and pigmentary retinopathies are all good general accounts which are easy to read and follow. There are also short accounts of the retinopathy of rubella and problems of uveitis in childhood.

This book is well produced and succeeds admirably in its aim to present a text on retinal disease for the paediatrician and the ophthalmic resident as well as the established ophthalmologist. It is particularly recommended to those specialising in paediatric ophthalmology.

The Ophthalmic Assistant. Fundamentals and Clinical Practice. By H. A. STEIN and B. J. SLATT. 2nd ed., 1971. Pp. 470, figs, bibl. Mosby, St. Louis; Kimpton, London. (£10.10)

The book, which is well written and illustrated, is an admirable treatise on the subjects which are not ordinarily discussed in ophthalmic textbooks. The description of these practical problems is such that it should be read by all medical assistants and also by all ophthalmic surgeons. It is of particular usefulness to those training for ophthalmology.

Ophthalmic Dispensing. By R. L. STIMSON. 2nd ed., 1971. Pp. 604, 233 figs, bibl. Thomas, Springfield, Ill. (\$23.50)

This is the long-overdue second edition of a well-known volume on ophthalmic dispensing. Although it is designed principally for the dispensing optician, there is much in this book for the ophthalmologist provided he is willing to accept a certain latitude in the interpretation of physiological optics. The main concern of the book is to provide guide-lines for the dispensing of spectacles and differing lens forms are discussed in detail, together with practical advice on spectacle frames. Since the book is written for dispensing opticians, subjects such as refraction and contact lenses do not receive much attention.

It is important for ophthalmologists to remember that making a patient see comfortably is not just a matter of prescribing the correct lenses. This book shows how much more involved is the process of designing and fitting, and it should certainly be included in any comprehensive ophthalmic library.