

Book reviews

Comprehensive Review of Orthoptics and Ocular Motility. Theory, Therapy, and Surgery. By J. HURTT, A. RASICOVICI, and C. E. WINDSOR. 1972. Pp. 253, 52 figs, bibl. Mosby, St. Louis; Kimpton, London. (£9.70)

This book in the 'Comprehensive Review' series attempts to provide a complete guide to strabismus management. The question and answer format is used with only partial success, because some chapters are clearly not suitable for this approach. The chapters on anatomy and physiology suffer particularly, but the major defect of the book is the lack of illustrations. The diagrams in the optics section are admirable but their absence from the anatomy, physiology, and surgery sections entails long descriptions where drawings could have saved space and improved understanding.

On sensory adaptations, amblyopia, orthoptic instruments, diagnosis, and orthoptic treatment, the teaching is clear and concise. At last the Hess-Less screen receives its long due recognition across the Atlantic.

Unusual but welcome sections deal with the functions and responsibilities of the orthoptist, preparation of the child for admission to hospital, the question of fees, and how to avoid operating on the wrong muscle.

There are a few misprints, the most unfortunate being in the example of transposition of lenses. A few errors of fact have crept into the chapter on medical Terminology in which both Marcus Gunn and Argyll Robertson would be surprised at the descriptions of pupillary reactions attributed to them. In the surgical section it is sad to see inferior oblique disinsertion preferred to its recession. More alarming is the claim that the rupture of a vortex vein is a *not uncommon* complication.

However, these minor defects must not be allowed to detract from the main purpose of the authors to provide a text for both orthoptists and ophthalmologists that ensures a firm grounding upon which new knowledge may be built. With this book the foundations will be sure.

Clinical Gonioscopy: A Text and Stereoscopic Atlas. By S. C. BECKER. 1972. Pp. 256, figs, 16 stereo reels, 410 refs. Mosby, St. Louis; Kimpton, London. (£24)

This volume has two main purposes: first, to present the gonioscopic appearances in stereophotographs of a wide variety of normal and abnormal conditions, and, second, to emphasize the importance of errors in the choice of goniolens and method of use which may lead to serious errors in diagnosis.

Present instruments and methods are critically reviewed and it is concluded that none is entirely satisfactory. A new goniolens is described, in which contact with the cornea is achieved by a layer of fluid so that there is no possibility of distorting the anterior segment during examination. The prism and prism-holder are supported on a headband worn by the patient. This has great theoretical advantages but might prove difficult to use in elderly or apprehensive patients.

The importance of grading the angle is stressed, and the author suggests an ingenious method for this, and also provides a chart for recording gonioscopic features.

The description of these features is comprehensive and interspersed with black-and-white illustrations derived from the colour photographs. The latter are on the whole excellent, but as most are taken through a Koeppel-type lens the magnification provided by the hand-viewer is hardly enough to take full advantage of the detail.

The book provides a very useful introduction to the practice of gonioscopy and should certainly be read by all ophthalmologists concerned with the diagnosis and management of glaucoma.