

Book reviews

Einführung in die Augenheilkunde (Introduction to Ophthalmology). By F. MÜLLER and G. PIETRUSCHKA. 1972. Pp. 206, 185 figs, 7 tables. Barth, Leipzig (21 DM)

It is always interesting to compare foreign text-books with those produced in the United Kingdom, especially those designed for undergraduates, as the comparison may give us some idea of the relative standards of teaching in different countries. This is a small first-class volume from East Germany which stands up very favourably to its British counterparts. It combines the three attributes of clarity, brevity, and accuracy which are the hallmarks of a good text-book, and the general excellence of its illustrations make this a very special book indeed.

Designed primarily for medical students, but extending well into postgraduate fields, the book is logically divided into a number of sections dealing with the anatomy and pathological processes affecting the ocular tissues. Methods of examination are described in the appropriate chapters, and the authors make very good use of tables and illustrations. Theorization is reduced to a minimum and the whole emphasis of the book is on the practical assessment and management of ophthalmic conditions. East German medicine, of course, differs from Anglo-Saxon medicine and much of the recommended treatments have an alien sound, but in this context this is no criticism.

If this is what the medical students in Leipzig, Dresden, Rostok, and Berlin are encouraged to read, then it can do nothing but good to ophthalmic medicine in that country. With certain modifications related to methods of treatment, an English translation of this book would be a welcome addition to ophthalmic text-books.

Advances in Ophthalmology. Volume 26. Edited by M. J. ROPER-HALL, H. SAUTTER, and E. B. STREIFF. 1972. Pp. 362, 139 figs, refs. Karger, Basel (£14.75) This twenty-sixth volume in the series "Advances in Ophthalmology" is composed of articles on a wide variety of topics. Three are in English, two in French, and two in German.

The three English papers comprise a discussion by Huber on the clinical presentation, visual field defects, and x-ray diagnosis of orbital and intracranial lesions; a selective review by Redmond Smith of the last 10 years of glaucoma literature; and a paper by Wulle on the development of the productive and draining system of the aqueous humour in the human eye. All three articles set out to bring the reader up to date in their subjects, as the title of the volume suggests, and the paper by Huber has particular clinical value.

In the two French articles Betrix discusses the fluorescein angiographic appearance of retinal vascular anomalies, and Scouras, Dufour, and Thilges review 316 cases of intraocular foreign bodies and complications of removal, particularly secondary retinal detachment.

Both the German articles have a pathological basis. There is a long paper by Thiel on Meesmann's epithelial corneal dystrophy with a family study going back to 1620; the opening remarks on corneal dystrophies in general are followed by detailed descriptions of the individual members of this pedigree who have been examined. Finally, Lerche discusses the microscopic changes that occur in Bruch's membrane during the development of senile degeneration and correlates them with the clinical appearance. The histological structures of the different forms of drusen are described.

Tumeurs de Poil et des annexes oculaires (Tumours of the Eye and Adnexae). By G. OFFRET and C. HAYE. 1972. Pp. 608, 377 figs, refs. Masson, Paris (Fr. frs 190)

This volume gives an excellent description of the various tumours which are found in the eyelids and the globe. The sections on the eyelid include a large section on angiomas; it is suggested that they are treated by various forms of irradiation. There is also a full description of pigmented tumours and suggestions for methods of treatment. There are many excellent photographs and those of the advanced epitheliomas of the eyelids are particularly impressive as are the results of their treatment by radiotherapy. Tumours of the conjunctiva are well described and their treatment is