In this compact book the British reader is provided with an outline of the way in which the United States provides for its visually handicapped citizens. It could be the model for the publication here of a single volume which brought together and expanded information available now only under separate headings, frequently in the form of pamphlets. Even in its own setting there is not much available as competition for its particular place on the bookshelf. It is to be recommended as informative and stimulating reading.


This monograph was written by an ophthalmic surgeon and by an engineer. More than one-third of its pages are concerned with physical laws and data which apply to the production of low temperature and few ophthalmic surgeons will be interested in thermodynamics. The cryobiological effect on the tissues is clearly explained and, as regards the lens, the authors give pertinent advice on strength of the adherence of the cryoprobe to the lens surface, the optimal temperature, and duration of the application. Cryoextraction seems to be the least dangerous method for removal of a lens which has been luxated into the vitreous. For retinal detachment the handling of a diathermy instrument appears to be easier than cryocautery. Other uses of cryotherapy relate to the treatment of corneal diseases, glaucoma, iridocyclitis, prolapse of the iris, and severing of vitreo-corneal adhesions. The book will appeal especially to an ophthalmic surgeon who is interested in physics. The authors stress that a perfect surgical technique is more important than an expensive apparatus.


The book is an excellent guide to the technique and evaluation of electromyography. The method gives valuable information about the diagnosis, degree, and prognosis of various conditions, and the action of drugs can be ascertained in an objective way. The author should be given credit for stressing the difficulties and sources of error in electromyography. Repeated examinations are often required and the work of the laboratory technician has to be supplemented by that of the experienced clinician.


This book which contains the transactions of a symposium on soft lenses held in Gainesville, Florida, consists of several papers by scientists, optometrists, and ophthalmologists. They are chiefly concerned with the chemistry and physiology of the cornea under a lens, the types of lenses fitted, and the pathological ocular conditions treatable by these lenses. The materials and forms described are Bausch and Lomb (PolyHEMA), Biomite (PolyHEMA + P.V.P. Copolymer), and silicone rubber, and the advantages and disadvantages of each are discussed at some length. As always with a series of related papers, there is a considerable amount of unavoidable overlap. To the uninitiated the volume will provide a surfeit of opinion and valuable information, much of which has, however, changed since the meeting was held.


This book contains short papers reviewing the progress made during the last few years in such fields as ophthalmological genetics, corneal surgery, and the orbit. Few ophthalmic surgeons will fail to
find new and interesting points discussed in these concise essays. The first paper, by Freye, which deals with genetic problems, gives fascinating hints regarding the possibility of biological engineering, but it would have been instructive to have had these problems illustrated by examples and diagrams. Such details make the paper of Jaeger on the heredity of congenital defects of the colour sense lucid reading. Of great practical interest are the publications dealing with corneal surgery. Such masters of this speciality as Harms and Mackensen have given contributions on microsurgery, Alberth reviews immunosuppression, and Puchkovskaya regenerative processes after keratoplasty. Much has been achieved, but much more remains to be achieved.


This is a monumental volume consisting of a number of monographs on various subjects which have a physiological basis. A third of the volume is taken up by chapters on optics, visual physiology, refraction, and visual aids. There is a large section on microbiology and chemotherapy in relation to the eye, and a number of short well informed articles on electroretinography. Each section is comprehensive, furnished with up-to-date references (some even include work done in the year of publication), and contains considerable detail about instrumentation, but the emphasis seems to be rather on the theoretical than on the practical and clinical aspects of the topics under discussion. The section on microbiology and chemotherapy, for instance, describes the basic methods of the study of micro-organisms and each one is discussed in detail, but little is written about the manifestations of bacterial and viral ocular disease or their treatment. The book is at its most practical in the articles on ultrasound and x-ray diagnosis. Obviously, this is a book for the postgraduate ophthalmologist, but is not a course of introductory lectures. Those who read it will already need to have considerable knowledge of the subjects under discussion, and there are less technical, more practical, volumes available.


The papers published in this book were given at The City University to make the 75th Anniversary of the British Optical Association in 1970. They are grouped into nine sections: History, Education, Anatomy and Physiology, Abnormalities, Clinical Methods, Binocular Vision, Contact Lenses, Physiological Optics, and Practice Management.

These groups are covered by over forty papers, which span the range of experience and research work of the modern optometrist or ophthalmic optician. It is a very extensive range. For example, two papers dealing with electron microscopy (Collin, Ruskell) are entirely composed of results of laboratory research. The largest number of papers deals with binocular vision and refraction and the overall standard in this particular field is high. The same comment applies to the papers on clinical methodology. For ophthalmologists who have interests in these subjects reading of selected papers will prove well worthwhile.


The relationship between ischaemia in the region of the optic disc and field defects in glaucoma is by now well established, and the dependence of perfusion of the retinal circulation on the systemic blood pressure and intraocular pressure has been the subject of much experimental work. In this interesting monograph, Heilmann examines the reversible nature of the early field defects in chronic