

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.

Der Augenarzt (The Ophthalmologist). Edited by K. VELHAGEN. Vol. 2, 1972. Pp. 1240, figs, bibl. Thieme, Leipzig. (DM 145)

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 post-graduate 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.

Transactions of the International Ophthalmic Optical Congress, 1970. BRITISH OPTICAL ASSOCIATION. 1972. Pp. 500, figs, bibl. British Optical Association, London. (£4)

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.

Augendruck, Blutdruck, und Glaukomschaden (Ocular Tension, Blood Pressure, and Glaucoma). By K. HEILMANN. 1972. Pp. 82, 73 figs, bibl. Enke, Stuttgart. (DM 26)

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 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

simple glaucoma using static perimetry. Defects can be provoked and reversed by alterations in the intraocular pressure or in the systemic blood pressure, but in the main they are more sensitive to intraocular pressure changes. The reversibility depends on the stage of glaucoma and the duration of the haemodynamic alteration.

A series of results from patients which illustrates these changing defects is preceded by a discussion of the physiology of visual field testing and the vascular supply of the optic disc. The author ends with a comparative assessment of different instruments for testing the visual fields without drawing any firm conclusions, but with informative descriptions.

As a monograph this contribution cannot be faulted, but in the context of a wider field of ophthalmic literature this type of publication has a limited appeal.

Dyslexia. Problems of Reading Disabilities. By H. K. GOLDBERG and G. B. SCHIFFMAN. 1972. Pp. 194, 11 figs, bibl. Grune and Stratton, New York. (£8.75)

This book seeks to relate medical knowledge about dyslexia with education. It is written jointly by an ophthalmologist and a prominent educationalist who has considerable experience in teaching children with reading difficulties. It is well written and rightly emphasizes the need for early diagnosis as treatment is much easier before the age of 6 years. The authors point out that there is no clear evidence of any relationship between peripheral visual disability and reading problems and that eye exercises are of no help. Disorders of ocular movement in dyslexia are produced by lack of comprehension. Poor vision may make a slow reader but not a retarded one with reversal letters, words, or numbers. The main burden of treatment lies with teachers and there are, of course, too few who are trained in teaching reading skills. The authors feel that the main hope lies in the local classroom which should be small enough for the teacher to meet individual differences in the children.

Multiple Sclerosis. A Re-appraisal. By DOUGLAS MACALPINE, C. E. LUMSDEN, and E. D. ACHESON. 1972. Pp. 653, figs, bibl. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh. (£6)

This is a new and augmented edition of a book already established as a classic in the field of multiple sclerosis. It is divided into three parts. In the first, Professor Acheson gives an admirable account of the epidemiology of multiple sclerosis. In the second, Dr. McAlpine provides the best account available in English of the clinical aspects of the disease. The ophthalmologist will find his detailed discussion of optic neuritis particularly informative. In the third part of the book, Professor Lumsden deals with the clinical pathology (including immunology) of the disease. This important book can be thoroughly recommended to all concerned with multiple sclerosis, both as a guide to the present state of knowledge and research, and as a handbook in the management of patients with the disease.

Notes

Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom

93rd Annual Congress, 1973

The 93rd Annual Congress, held at the Royal College of Physicians of London on April 11 to 13, 1973, under the Presidency of Mr. H. B. Stallard, was attended by 394 ophthalmologists.

In his Presidential address Mr. Stallard discussed the evolution of lateral orbitotomy (an operation which he pioneered some 40 years ago). The Bowman medal for 1973 was presented to Prof. Hans Goldmann who delivered the Bowman lecture on "The Slit Lamp". During the opening session short papers dealing with electro-diagnostic techniques were given by Prof. H. E. Henkes