

Book reviews

Les anesthésiques en ophtalmologie (Étude pharmacologique, principes d'utilisation clinique). By B. ALGAN, I. PIERRE, and J. L. LEYDER. 1974. Pp. 159, bibl. Doin, Paris (Fr. frs 75)

The greater part of this slim volume is concerned with the pharmacology of agents used for regional and general anaesthesia in ophthalmology, only twelve pages being devoted to their clinical uses. Some agents are included which are seldom used in ophthalmology, whereas drugs more commonly used are not always fully discussed. For example, suxamethonium has been the subject of several recent papers on anaesthesia, but in this book only four lines are allocated to it. Its potential danger in raising the intraocular pressure, *e.g.* in open wounds of the sclera, is dismissed as unimportant, and no mention is made of the possible mechanisms causing this rise. Indeed, it is a valid criticism of this book that neither the physiology of the intraocular pressure, nor the methods available for controlling it, are discussed. Acetazolamide and mannitol do not appear in the index, although commonly used; but mannitol is mentioned in another context as a systemic hypotensive agent, with which not many anaesthetists would agree.

This book does not fully reflect current practice in Britain. Its prose style is confusing and over-colloquial for the non-French speaking reader.

J. R. Samuel

Traitement chirurgical des affections oculaires, Vols 2 and 3. By L. GUILLAUMAT, L. PAUFIQUE, and J. CHARLEUX. 1974. Pp. 438, 149 figs. Doin, Paris (Fr. frs 210 each volume)

It is not surprising that such distinguished and eminent eye surgeons have completed two such highly acceptable volumes. Being in French, however, they will fail to reach many English-speaking ophthalmologists. The books are abundantly illustrated and the clarity of the illustrations should leave the trainee ophthalmologist (or indeed of the mature surgeon) in little doubt about which incision to make and how to complete the closure of the wound. The indications and contraindications for various surgical procedures are clearly set forth, and the steps in the operations are usually given individually, thus enabling one to follow them separately. The text is not sufficiently comprehensive to advise the surgeon which sutures to use or which instruments are preferable, but this is perhaps not a bad thing because of the wide variations in current practice.

The authors have drawn largely from their own wide experience in selecting the operations deemed preferable but, unfortunately, the text is punctuated with proper names referable to disorders, diseases, or techniques which may leave many readers in ignorance. Despite these minor disadvantages, the volumes are to be widely commended.

Ian Duguid

Biomicroscopy of the Peripheral Fundus. An Atlas and Text book. By G. EISNER. 1973. Pp. 191, 121 figs, bibl. Springer, Berlin. (D.M. 128)

This excellent monograph is intended as an introduction to indentation biomicroscopy, a technique enabling visualization of the extreme periphery of the fundus by utilizing the principle of the Goldmann contact lens and scleral depression.

The five chapters follow a comprehensive and orderly sequence. In the first three the reader is familiarized with the principles of indentation, the anatomy, and the examination of the extreme fundus periphery. The last two chapters, which deal in great detail with clinical variations and pathological changes, will be of particular interest to those interested in retinal detachment surgery. The section dealing with posterior vitreous detachment is particularly well written. The book is very well illustrated with photographs, diagrams, and colour paintings of high quality.

This book makes an important contribution to a better understanding of a very important part of the eye, and can be recommended to all ophthalmologists dealing with retinal detachments.

J. J. Kanski