

Book reviews

Uveitis: Immunologic and Allergic Phenomena. By R. CAMPINCHI, J.-P. FAURÉ, E. BLOCH-MICHEL, and J. HAUT. Translated, revised, and indexed by B. GOLDEN and M. QUIVOSET. 1973. Pp. 818+xvi, 126 figs, bibl. Thomas, Springfield, Ill. (\$39.50)

This book is an English translation of the Report presented by the authors to the French Ophthalmological Society, and it represents an excellent example of the extensive reviews of specified subjects typical of these Reports. It commences with an outline of modern immunological concepts and their application to ocular inflammation, and this is followed by sections on the clinical features of uveitis, methods of investigation, and descriptions of specific clinical entities and their treatment.

The immunopathology of uveitis is dealt with particularly well; the many experimental studies quoted are critically reviewed and the results interpreted in the light of modern theories of immunology. This section of the book is an invaluable reference source for those engaged in such experimental studies, and yet is written with sufficient simplicity to make the subject understandable to the non-specialist.

The more clinical sections of the book are, by contrast with the experimental sections, rather less exciting, and acceptance of some aetiological factors in uveitis is less critical. Considerable emphasis is placed on the diagnostic value of antibody studies on the aqueous humour, using the techniques developed by Goldman and Witmer. The theory behind these tests is elegant and such tests may well prove of great value when we have a wider knowledge of possible aetiological agents. At the moment they do not seem to increase the proportion of definite diagnoses beyond that attained by serological means.

The section on treatment includes a useful chapter on the results of immunosuppressive drugs in uveitis. Protein shock therapy and specific desensitization are still included as useful measures when other treatment fails.

This book is to be recommended mainly for the first sections on immunopathology. The more clinical sections are up-to-date and comprehensive, but tend to perpetuate aetiological concepts (allergy to streptococcal antigens, for example) for which the evidence is less than satisfactory. The book is well printed and adequately illustrated and the translation is excellent. The addition of an index, absent in the original, is most helpful.

E. S. PERKINS

Eye Surgery. By H. B. STALLARD. 5th ed., 1973. Pp. 946, 779 figs. Wright, Bristol (£13.25)

An increase in the number of figures has not been accompanied by a similar addition to the number of pages of this internationally recognized reference book of ophthalmic surgery. It is right to begin this review with a tribute to its author, whose recent death has deprived ophthalmic surgery of one of its pre-eminent exponents. It is appropriate that he should have been able to complete the most recent edition of his authoritative textbook. Stallard has continued to support his opinion that the entire field of ocular surgery, with a few possible exceptions, is still within the competence of a well-trained and experienced surgeon.

To the already comprehensive text have been added a chapter on the treatment of cardiac arrest, and descriptions of trabeculectomy, vitrectomy, phako-emulsification, refractive keratoplasty, (keratomileusis), and keratoprosthesis. The author willingly acknowledges his indebtedness to a number of colleagues in relation to some of the newer techniques, but the value of the descriptions in the book is personal to his own meticulous and painstaking character. The degree of detail in the descriptions should allow any competent ophthalmic surgeon to carry out a particular procedure.