

No attempt is made to include the wide variety of operations that is available for the solution of an individual surgical problem, but alternative techniques are included where the author has either had personal experience of the method, or has been convinced of its value.

For the post-graduate student this book offers what is probably the most reliable available account of ophthalmic operations in the wider sense of surgery involving the eye and the orbit, and injuries and deformities in the surrounding anatomical area. He will also find all the information he requires concerning the sterilization of ophthalmic preparations and instruments, the practice of local and general anaesthesia in ophthalmology, and the treatment of cardiac arrest. For the qualified ophthalmic surgeon the text provides a more than adequate work of reference.

J. R. HUDSON

**Handbook of Sensory Physiology. Vol. VIII/3 Central Process of Visual Information. Part B.** Edited by R. JUNG. 1973. Pp. 738, 216 figs, bibl. Springer, Berlin (\$70)

This volume is the third part of the Section on the "Central Processing of Visual Information" in the mammoth series "The Handbook of Sensory Physiology". There are 19 international contributors most of whom have devoted their major academic activities towards further understanding of the visual system. All the chapters are of a uniformly high standard, encompassing mainly the morphology and function of visual centres in the brain. This begins with the anatomical and physiological properties of the retino-tectal system, and the role of the lateral geniculate bodies, and concludes with the organization of the occipital cortex.

The text and bibliography make this the ultimate reference book for clinical ophthalmologists, who will find the material new and complex. For those with an interest in the neurophysiology of vision, this book could become a compulsory and exciting purchase.

M. D. SANDERS

**The Ocular Fundus in Systemic Disease.** By E. M. CHESTER. 1974. Pp. 245, 231 figs (col. plates). Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books), London (£17.50)

This beautifully produced volume sets out with the plausible intention of providing a manual for teaching both physicians and ophthalmologists how to assess the retinal changes in systemic disease. It attempts to bring together the clinical and pathological aspects of observed retinal changes in generalized disorders, with detailed descriptions of hypertensive and diabetic retinopathies and of papilloedema. Each component of the retinopathy—haemorrhages, exudates, cotton-wool spots, and microaneurysms—is discussed in depth with extensive illustrations, making use of fundus photographs, microscope sections, and line drawings. Conditions of greater interest to the ophthalmologist, such as retinal detachment, glaucoma, and macular degeneration, are described more briefly with emphasis on the diagnostic and pathological aspects only. Each chapter ends with a "question and answer" section to assist the reader in his revision and the author completes the book with a suggested classification of the retinopathies based on his interpretation of the underlying vascular changes.

The chief failing of this ambitious volume rests in its incompleteness. In a book purposely designed to allow the physician to diagnose with the aid of the ophthalmoscope, it is strange that such conditions as angiod streaks, ischaemic papillopathy, vasculitis, the systemic association of retinitis pigmentosa, and the major peripheral retinal changes in Eales's disease and sickle-cell retinopathy are either omitted or receive little attention. Above all, the almost complete absence of fluorescein angiography in the author's recommended assessment of these retinal vascular conditions is a misjudgment of the present ophthalmological climate.

The illustrations are excellent, but there are almost too many, and the accompanying index system is complicated. The greatest value of this book is as a pictorial display of retinal vascular disease correlated with the underlying pathology, and as such it can be recommended, despite its faults, for the libraries of both medical and ophthalmic departments.

T. J. FFYTCH