blastoma accounts for only 3.1 per cent. of childhood cancers in Manchester, but forms 7.4 per cent. of cases in Uganda—and this in spite of the large numbers (36.2 per cent.) of Burkitt's tumours in Uganda. Squamous carcinoma of the conjunctiva is the other common ocular tumour seen in Uganda, accounting for 89 of 102 conjunctival neoplasms. Basal cell carcinoma of the eyelid is strikingly less frequent than in European experience: only two examples were registered in this category.

The volume is rounded off by a thoughtful discussion on the distribution of tumours in Uganda by A. C. Templeton and M. S. R. Hutt, and is embellished with a stimulating foreword by Sir Richard Doll, who indicates the lessons that geographical tumour pathology may hold for cancer research in general.

T. Crawford

Retinal Detachment—The Essentials of Management. By H. B. CHAWLA. 1974. Pp. 74, figs, refs. Churchill-Livingstone, Edinburgh and London. (£1.75)

This small, inexpensive paperback gives a concise account of the management of retinal detachment. The first five chapters, which deal with the examination and preoperative management of the patient, contain many useful tips such as, where to seek the tear, the assessment of the vitreous, and scleral depression. The next three chapters deal with surgical technique; here the author describes in some detail his rather controversial personal technique of treating upper retinal breaks by the routine use of intravitreal air. The last chapter deals admirably with the very difficult aspect of prophylaxis. The book is lavishly illustrated with simple line drawings.

On the whole the author has managed to present a complicated and controversial aspect of ophthalmology in a simple and very readable way, and his book will be of particular value to residents in training.

J. J. Kanski

Your Eyes (A book for paramedical personnel and the lay reader). By T. CHALKLEY. 1974. Pp 122, 15 figs. Thomas, Springfield, Ill. (\$4.75)

As "Ophthalmology, written for the intelligent layman", this is probably the best of the many books available. It is the successor to Vail's "The Truth about your Eyes", and will be a helpful introduction to any who find themselves working in an eye department or blind institution, or who are preparing to train as an orthoptist, optician, and so on. On the 'teach yourself' principle, each chapter is followed by a series of formal questions to which you can hope to give yourself the correct answers.

The last section consists of detailed replies to all those queries which the layman is liable to pose to his oculist, and it was a pleasure to read the careful debunking of so many myths and fantasies. Some of the questions were rather dotty ("Isn't glaucoma a cancer of the eye?"); and some fallacies could have been more trenchantly rebutted. Thus "Will eye exercises make my eyes stronger?" is followed by "...Occasionally adults will benefit from some form of eye exercise..."; or to questions like "Does watching TV hurt my eyes?", "If I wear the wrong glasses, will it hurt my eyes?", "Can I use my eyes too much?", etc. The answer should be a firm "No", before speculating respectively on the possibilities of dark-induced glaucoma from TV watching, and talking of the risks of "eyestrain" (which to the layman could imply actual damage). But, all in all, the book covers the subject admirably, avoids (most of) the unnecessary jargon, and is easy to read.

P. D. Trevor-Roper

Optics. By W. H. A. FINCHAM and M. H. FREEMAN. 8th ed., 1974. Pp. 482, 262 figs. Butterworths, London (£5.00)

It is now just 40 years since Mr. W. Fincham's first edition appeared. The chief reason for writing a book at that time was to establish a more practical sign convention and to provide a primer on optics