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. G. 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


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


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


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
for students who were preparing for careers in ophthalmic optics and technical optics. The present edition is the eighth and therefore, without doubt, his object has been realized.

The previous format is maintained and there is now a co-author (Mr. Freeman). The new material is found chiefly in the later chapters on the Nature of Sight and includes laser, holography, and an adaptation of the material on luminescence. This text still maintains its concise authoritative handling of a basic subject important to many professions and several industries. One hopes that it will continue to thrive.

Montague Ruben


Report of a Symposium held in August, 1972

At this symposium held at the Institut für Tierphysiologie Ruhr-Universität, Bochum, W. Germany, the introductory lecture was given by the Nobel Laureate, George Wald. The papers are divided into six main topics:

1. Pigment structure and chemical properties
2. Photolysis and intermediates of the pigments
3. Regeneration of the pigments
4. Excitation and adaptation of photoreceptor cells
5. Ionic aspects of excitation and regeneration
6. Enzymology and molecular architecture of the light sensitive membrane

The reviewer is impressed with the uniformly high quality of the communications to the extent that it would be invidious to single out any for special note. The book is required reading for all those researching in this field and its value is augmented by the individual discussions on most papers and the general discussion at the end of the volume.

The production, as one expects from Springer-Verlag, is excellent and good value for the money. The appearance of the book so soon after the meeting is a tribute to the Editor and his assistants and to the publishers.

H. J. A. Dartnall


This book contains material selected from the International Symposium on Ocular Inflammatory Disease held in Iowa City in November, 1971. It was the intention of the symposium 'to reduce empiricism and to explore fundamental pathogenic mechanisms' but this is not always apparent in the published proceedings. A few of the chapters present comprehensive accounts of symptoms, signs, and treatment, but regrettably little space is given to fundamental mechanisms, so that immune complex disease is dealt with in a chapter of only one page while collagenase and its inhibitors fare little better with only two pages.

The round-table discussions are of more interest and often reflect a great diversity of opinion about the management of a wide range of ocular inflammations.

However, the main failure of the book is its illustrations, which are mostly in black and white and frequently so blurred as to be valueless. The few colour reproductions are of poor quality and one table is illegible.

One is left with a disappointing memento of a symposium which took 2 years to prepare and involved eighteen internationally recognized experts in ocular inflammatory disease.

Peter Wright