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

Biochemistry and Physiology of the Visual Pigments. Edited by H. LANGER. 1973. Pp. 366, 200 figs, bibl. Springer, Berlin (DM 31.80)
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

Ocular Inflammatory Disease. Edited by B. GOLDEN. 1974. Pp. 1339, 167 figs, 38 col. pl., refs. Thomas, Springfield, Ill. (\$22.75)

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