

Book reviews

Onchocerciasis: Symptomatology, Pathology, Diagnosis. Edited by A. A. BUCK. 1974. Pp. 80, 85 figs (inc. col.), bibl. WHO, Geneva (12 Sw. frs.)

This is a very useful and up-to-date summary of present thinking by WHO on the vexed question of onchocerciasis. It is particularly timely in view of the plans by WHO to eliminate onchocerciasis from the Volta River basin and to restore the economic potential of a region covering 700,000 square kilometres.

The eight contributors include a number of new workers in this field whose contributions are excellent. Clinical and pathological aspects of the disease in general as well as the ocular manifestations are listed. Excellent illustrations of both general and ocular manifestations, many in colour, are appended. Typical onchocerciasis survey forms are reproduced.

While the pathogenesis of the anterior segment lesions is fairly well understood, that of the posterior segment lesions is still not completely clear. Most of the eyes examined have been blind eyes in a late stage of the disease. There is a need to obtain eyes for histological examination at an earlier stage from patients dying from other causes.

The reviewer regrets that the nature of the disease in the Americas, where the association between onchocerciasis and blindness was first recognized in 1917, is not touched upon in this otherwise excellent publication.

D. P. Choyce

Orthoptie pratique. By M. J. BESNARD. 1973. Pp. 192, 114 figs. Doin, Paris (Fr. frs. 48)

This is an essentially practical book which describes in adequate detail the whole range of examinations usually performed by the orthoptist. It is intended not to replace but to complement Hugonnier's textbook. Due emphasis is given to some of the more recent innovations, including Bagolini's striated glasses, the measurement of stereoacuity, and the use of the stereoprojector and of Pullfrich's pendulum. It is disappointing that the Lees modification of the Hess screen is summarily dismissed as "cumbersome and onerous". Full details of the "penalization" method of treating amblyopia are given and even include some acknowledgement of its limitations. It is altogether a useful book of convenient length and size.

Peter Fells

BOOKS RECEIVED

Vitamin A Deficiency and Blindness Prevention. Edited by V. BOYDE. 1974. Pp. 74, bibl. American Foundation for the Blind, New York (\$2)