

Book reviews

Advances in Ophthalmology, vol. 30. Surgery of the Iris and Ciliary Body (4th Biennial Symposium of the Ophthalmic Microsurgery Study Group, Lund, July 1972). Edited by E. PALM and G. MACKENSEN. (Series editors E. B. Streiff, M. Sautter, and M. J. Roper-Hall.) 1975. Pp. 339, 310 figs, refs. Karger, Basel (188 DM)

The 4th biennial symposium of the Ophthalmic Microsurgery Study Group was held in July 1972 at Lund in Sweden and this book gives an account of the papers from that meeting.

The topics covered were extensive and comprehensive, and gave both the mature surgeon and the trainee abundant useful information for reference and from which to learn. As with most books of this nature, the reader must be discerning, but the text is abundantly illustrated and the monochromatic photographs and diagrams are excellent.

I. M. DUGUID

Aspects Cliniques des Modifications de la Tension Oculaire. (Collections de Monographies d'Ophthalmologie publ. Sous l'égide de la Soc. franç. Ophtal.) By E. BESSIÈRE. 1975. Pp. 219, 45 figs, refs. Masson, Paris (145fr.)

One of a collection of monographs on ophthalmology published by the French Ophthalmological Society.

An essentially clinical approach is the one chosen by the author of this little monograph on glaucoma. He launches straight into epidemiology, pathology and treatment, covering all forms of glaucoma in a thoroughly systematic manner. His interpretation of difficult subjects, such as the steroid response, is sound and logical. Much useful material is contained and the classification is such that it is easy for the reader to find the information he seeks; a useful bibliography is included at the end of each section. The quality of the optic disc photographs could be better, but the other illustrations and tables are concise and clear.

GILLIAN PATERSON

Atlas of External Diseases of the Eye, vol. IV: Anterior Chamber, Iris, and Ciliary Body. By D. D. DONALDSON. 1974. Pp. 369, 209 figs, refs. Mosby, St Louis; Kimpton, London (£34.45)

In this fourth volume are included all conditions that can be examined with the slit-lamp microscope. The book is organized on an aetiological basis and includes chapters on iatrogenic conditions. The text contains short descriptions of the disease entities accompanied by black and white photographs of very high quality which illustrate case histories. In addition, there are 16 reels of stereo pairs in colour and a folding stereo viewer stored inside the back cover.

All ophthalmologists will enjoy and learn from this book and the outstanding photographs, and for students it makes a suitable companion to conventional textbooks.

MARTIN CRICK

Binocular Vision and Ocular Motility: Theory and Management of Strabismus. By H. M. BURIAN and G. K. VON NOORDEN. 1974. Pp. 491, figs, tables, refs. Mosby, St Louis; Kimpton, London (£21.35)

A volume which is the combined effort of two such eminent authors is bound to raise high expectations and these are not disappointed.

The first part of the book, on physiology and anatomy, is written primarily by Burian and bears the characteristic stamp of his personality. It deals in a lucid and philosophical manner with the classic problems of this subject and it will remain a valuable review, although the recent explosion of neurophysiological experimental work will soon necessitate a reorientation of viewpoints in this rapidly changing subject. It is a pity that Burian did not live to integrate these with his superb survey of the older literature.

Burian's interest in basic theoretical concepts spills over into the second part—the introduction to neuromuscular anomalies; this makes fascinating reading but the resultant text, on the examination of the eye, includes much discussion of pathophysiology and it is therefore, as the authors recognize, not a straightforward or comprehensive guide to diagnostic methods.

The clinical sections, primarily by Von Noorden, are a more straightforward review of the best methods of management of the commoner types of strabismus admirably fulfilling the aim of telling the ophthalmologist not only 'what and how' but 'why'. The double authorship may be responsible for the omission of a description of the 4 dioptre prism test. A similar sort of approach to supranuclear lesions, which are largely excluded, would be of great value as they become more and more of clinical interest to ophthalmologists.

A. STANWORTH

Ophthalmic Nursing. By V. H. DARLING and M. R. THORPE. 1975. Pp. 205, 42 figs. Baillière Tindall, London (£2.00)

The authors of this extremely readable and informative book are to be congratulated. Jointly, they have produced a much needed textbook which can well be recommended to nurses who are meeting and assisting in the treatment of ophthalmic patients in situations in which the benefits of a 'specialist' service do not exist.

The text is well laid out; the subject matter is dealt with accurately, and the simple illustrations enhance the reader's comprehension of the structure and function of the eye.

Fortunately, the needs of the patient as a total person have not been ignored. In every way this is an excellent pocket guide for nurses, particularly those undertaking basic training courses.

M. TICKNER