

Book reviews

Eye Movements and Visual Perception. By R. W. DITCHBURN. 1973. Pp. 421, figs, bibl. Oxford University Press, London (£9.50)

Understanding the complex series of events involved in the simplest eye movement demands some knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the neural control mechanisms involved, and analysis now demands some understanding of simple bio-medical engineering terms.

The present book reflects this trend and the author's main interest in the physical characteristics of ocular movements. After a general introduction there is an excellent chapter on the various techniques that have been used for recording eye movements. This is followed by chapters on small eye movements and their dynamic characteristics and the effects of visual stabilization. The final chapters consider some of the optical features of visual perception.

This book is written for research workers in visual perception and provides an enormous amount of material on eye movements with a good bibliography. It is recommended for the ophthalmologist with a particular interest in eye movements but will not facilitate diagnosis in his clinical practice.

M. D. SANDERS

Contact Lens Practice. A Clinical Approach. By D. KUMAR and B. S. GOEL. 1974. Pp. 352, 176 figs, bibl. Kothari Book Depot, Bombay, India (Rs 60)

Dr. Kumar is an ophthalmic optician and Dr. Goel an ophthalmologist working in the Contact Lens Department, Gandhi Eye Hospital, Aligarh, India. This department was started in 1956 and has seen over 30,000 patients.

They have attempted to write a practical manual in contact lens practice particularly for practitioners in India.

There are chapters on basic sciences, haptic lenses, corneal lenses, one by Mr. C. Ruben on aspheric lenses, one by Dr. T. Grosvenor on soft lenses, a section on cosmetic lenses, and a final section on recent advances. This last section is already obsolescent because epikeratoprostheses are no longer used.

This book certainly embraces the scope of contact lenses practice. The main criticism is one made by a previous reviewer and printed on the jacket cover that the printing, paper, and illustrations are not of satisfactory standard. The information given is in the main correct, although many would disagree that the progress of myopia is affected by contact lens wear. I should have liked to have read more of the practical difficulties of contact lens fitting and wear in India, but I feel sure this book will partly fill a gap in ophthalmic knowledge and practice in many parts of the world.

M. O'RIORDAN

Modern Problems in Ophthalmology. Vol. 13 Colour Vision Deficiencies II (Proceedings of the

Second Symposium of the International Research Group on Colour Vision Deficiency, Edinburgh, June, 1973). Senior editor: E. STREIFF. Volume editor: G. VERRIEST. 1974. Pp. 380, 181 figs, bibl. Karger, Basel (£23.10)

The proceedings of the second symposium of the International Research Group in Colour Vision Deficiencies have appeared only some 15 months after the meeting, and are therefore still topical.

The subjects covered include mensuration problems connected with foveal vision. Congenital defects are considered from the point of view of function, spectral sensitivity, and subjective aspects; there is also a section on genetics. Acquired anomalies are approached basically from the pathogenetic and pathological points of view.

In addition to the normal pedestrian material, there are fascinating reports on new fields, *e.g.* the effect of excessive light on both the structure and function of the primate retina, studies of aphakes of various ages, a unilateral defect, and a great deal of interesting detail on clinical conditions. The price is so high that one would expect the quality of the contributions to match it. Hansen's splendid application of so-called laboratory techniques to the study of cone dystrophies enables one to overlook one or two of the more calamitous papers, like that by S. R. Cobb. The book is well edited by Guy Verriest, but the cost of paper makes it imperative for editors to use even sharper scissors to decide what should and should not see the light of day.

R. A. WEALE

Handbook of Sensory Physiology. Vol. VII/3 Central Processing of Visual Information. Part A: Integrative Functions and Comparative Data. Edited by R. JUNG. 1973. Pp. 775, 208 figs, bibl. Springer, Berlin (\$81.40)

This Third section of Volume VII comprises two parts: **A** is described below and **B** (Visual Centres in The Brain) has already been reviewed (*Brit. J. Ophthalmol.*, 50, 562).

Part A, which maintains the high standard of the series, includes chapters by established authorities, mainly drawn in this instance from Research Centres in Germany and Australia. The first nine chapters deal with Visual Perception, Form Discrimination, Colour Vision, Binocular Vision, Movement Detection, and details of the neuronal changes which follow visual deprivation. The three remaining chapters are concerned with aspects of Comparative Neurophysiology, including Colour Vision.

Chapters of particular interest to ophthalmologists include a discussion on the neural basis of stereoscopic vision, and the recent neurophysiological findings related to colour vision. Proponents of optokinetic techniques for the assessment of visual acuity will be interested in the five types of movement detecting neurones that are now de-

scribed, and there are also pathophysiological correlations related to migraine and visual hallucinations.

The bibliography (up to 1971) is extensive. The information contained in this book is formidable and most chapters have an introductory section. This volume does not only provide the ultimate reference book, but may also be of value to ophthalmologists who wish to have a deeper neurophysiological basis for the explanation of some of their clinical problems.

M. D. SANDERS

Notes

Department of Ophthalmology, University of Toronto, Canada

Refresher Course, April 10 to 11, 1975
Pathology Conference, April 12, 1975

At the course on paediatric ophthalmology to be held at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, the guests of honour will be G. K. von Noorden (*Texas*), R. Reineke, (*Albany, N.Y.*), and T. Kirkham (*Montreal*).

At the conference the guest of honour will be Dr W. Spencer (*Los Angeles*).

For further information write to Dr C. McCulloch, 1 Spadina Crescent, Toronto 179, Canada.

University of California, Los Angeles

Annual Postgraduate Seminar, May 2 to 3, 1975

The subject for study will be Microsurgery of the Anterior Segment. The Sixth Jules Stein lecture will be delivered by Prof. Joaquin Barraquer.

For information write to Jules Stein Institute, U.C.L.A. School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California 90024, U.S.A.

II International Symposium on Eye Surgery

Bologna, Italy, May 25 to 29, 1975

The subjects to be discussed include oculo-orbital prostheses, strabismus, retinal detachment, and surgery of the vitreous. Registration fee \$150. For information write to Prof. G. Cristini, Clinical Oculistica Università, via Massarenti 9, Bologna, Italy.

International Society of Geographical Ophthalmology

IV Congress, Edinburgh, June 30 to July 4, 1975

Official themes are as follows:

- (a) Developmental and congenital ocular anomalies and diseases.
- (b) Strabismus.
- (c) Ophthalmic services in different countries of the world with special reference to the use and training of paramedical personnel.

Papers may be read only by members of the society and invited guests (Membership fee \$10 payable to Account No. 48-00117, Bank of Commerce, Fort Smith, N.W.T., Canada). Papers to be submitted to the President: Dr

Announcement

The Australian College of Ophthalmologists has instituted "Surgical Procedure Books" to record surgical procedures personally performed by trainees during the vocational training period. These books may be obtained from the Examination Secretary of the College, 27 Commonwealth Street, Sydney 2010, Australia. Only the cost of postage will be charged to applicants.

Elizabeth Cass, Box 688, Fort Smith, N.W.T., Canada.

For information regarding registration and Congress fees, write to Dr R. S. Bartholomew, Eye Pavilion, Chalmers Street, Edinburgh EH3 9HA, Scotland.

II International Symposium on Metabolic Diseases of the Eye

June 30 to July 4, 1975, Edinburgh

The official themes for this symposium (*President: Dr J. François*) are as follows:

- (1) Carbohydrate metabolic defects, particularly diabetic retinopathy.
- (2) Haemoglobinopathies, particularly sickle cell disease.
- (3) Large molecule disorders, particularly the Refsum syndrome.
- (4) Genetic aspects.

For information concerning the scientific programme, write to Dr Hessel Haddad, 1,200 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10029, U.S.A.

For registration and congress fees write to Dr R. S. Bartholomew, Eye Pavilion, Chalmers Street, Edinburgh EH3 9HA, Scotland.

VI Afro-Asian Congress of Ophthalmology

Madras, India, January 4 to 8, 1976

The main subjects to be discussed are as follows:

- (1) Endemic eye diseases.
- (2) Corneal surgery and eye banks in developing countries.
- (3) Modern trends in the treatment of retinal detachment.
- (4) Recent advances in ocular therapeutics.
- (5) Lesions of the visual pathways.

Those interested should write to Dr J. Agarwal, Organizing Secretary, 29-C, Edward Elliotts Road, Madras-600 004, India.

International Symposium on Fluorescein Angiography

Ghent, Belgium, March 28 to April 1, 1976

Free papers are invited and there will be simultaneous translation. For further information write to The Secretariat, C/o Holland Organizing Centre, 16 Lange Voorhout, The Hague, Netherlands.