

Book reviews

Contact Lens Practice: Hard and Flexible Lenses. By R. B. MANDELL, 2nd ed. 1974. Pp. 819, figs, tables, refs. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois (\$32.50)

A book that has been reprinted five times in its first edition has obviously filled a need.

The 2nd edition of Professor Mandell's book has increased in size, but most of this increase is taken by new chapters on flexible lenses. Contributors include seven American optometrists, an American ophthalmologist Dr Antonio Gusset who describes the therapeutic use of soft lenses, and gratifyingly Professor Robert Fletcher of the City University London who gives an account of scleral hard lenses.

The book is described as a contact lens fitting guide for practising ophthalmologists and optometrists and a comprehensive guide for students. It achieves this aim, is well written and easily readable. More information about the vitally important water content of continuously worn soft lenses is needed.

Excellent printed, bound and illustrated, this book represents good value in dollars although the sinking pound makes it more expensive for UK purchasers.

M. O'RIORDAN

Contact Lens Practice: Visual, Therapeutic and Prosthetic. Pp. 368, 382 figs (18 colour plates), tables, refs. 1975. Baillière Tindall, London (£19.50)

The arrival of the first edition of *Contact Lens Practice* is an event keenly awaited by all those with an interest in this field. There can be no disappointments since this book is a masterly production and Montague Ruben and his contributors have written a balanced comprehensive text covering all aspects of contact lens practice. It contains a wealth of information and the up-to-date knowledge will prove useful to the established contact lens practitioner and the novice alike.

The book consists of 15 clearly written chapters, each with an extensive bibliography. In addition a useful appendix and a comprehensive index have been included.

The author begins with an interesting summary of the history and evolution of contact lenses. This chapter is followed by one dealing with indications for contact lens wear. All the principles appertaining to the management of therapeutic cases with contact lenses are discussed. An exhaustive list of specific diseases, treatable with contact lenses could have been included with benefit, even though they are discussed in a later chapter.

The next chapter deals with tears, and with certain aspects of the physiology, anatomy, and pathology of the cornea, conjunctiva, and ocular adnexa, of immediate concern to contact lens practitioners. This discussion,

with many photomicrographs, allows an easy understanding of these relevant topics. The following chapter provides concise basic information on optics in relation to contact lenses. Useful nomograms have been included, and formulae relevant to contact lens work explained. The succeeding chapter deals both with physical chemistry pertinent to contact lenses and all materials encountered in contact lens practice.

Accurate measurement of the corneal curvature is essential for correct lens fitting and the next two chapters cover this topic thoroughly. The following few chapters deal extensively with the fitting of corneal, scleral, and soft lenses; patient management; intolerance and eye disease resulting from contact lens wear.

Special diseases for which contact lenses are indicated are discussed in detail; these diseases which require special consideration when fitting lenses, include keratoconus, aphakia, bullous keratopathy, postkeratoplasty, dry eyes and tear anomalies. The chapter on manufacturing techniques is useful for the contact lens practitioner since he should be aware of the limitations imposed by manufacturing techniques. The final chapter deals fully with ocular cosmetic and prosthetic appliances.

It is a difficult task to produce a work of this quality, when the field is advancing rapidly and when there exists a wide range of techniques and opinions. However, the author has succeeded admirably and it is difficult to find fault with this book. I would have preferred a chapter to deal specifically with soft contact lenses, although all the relevant and current information in this important development is covered, albeit, distributed in various chapters. Some illustrations and plates are without reference in the text but they are all relevant and self-explanatory.

This textbook is essential reading for all those who work with hard or soft contact lenses. It is likely to become the standard text for reference and study in this field.

R. DANIEL

The Diagnosis and Treatment of Cerebral Arterial Disease of Extracranial Origin. Edited by R. D. FINE. 1974. Pp. 203, figs, tables, refs. Australasia Medical Publishing, Glebe, NSW (\$A15.00)

This book is concerned with embolism and carotid and vertebrobasilar disease in relation to their effects upon the cerebral circulation. It opens with concise accounts of cerebral vascular anatomy and physiology, and describes how the latter may be disturbed by disease. The mechanisms of ischaemic episodes are thoroughly discussed together with their clinical manifestations and how to investigate them.

The chapter on ophthalmic aspects of carotid and vertebrobasilar disease will be of particular interest.