Book reviews

Eye Muscle Problems in Childhood. A Manual for Parents. By C. E. WINDSOR and J. HURTT. 2nd ed. 1974. Pp. 48, 18 figs. Mosby, St Louis; Kimpton, London (80p)

This book provides a concise and factual account of the problems which beset disorders of ocular motility, particularly those developing in early childhood. It is designed for the guidance of the parents of such children, and represents a revision and condensation of the monograph *Strabismus in Childhood* by Herbert M. Katzin and Geraldine Wilson which appeared in 1968 and which was based on the book *Rehabilitation of the Child's Eyes* by Richard Scobee.

The book deals with the mechanisms which are concerned in the development of normal binocular function and with the defects which are liable to interfere with this process so that there is the production of a squint. This sequence provides a ready explanation for the various motor and sensory disorders which form part of the squint and also a basis for the methods of treatment which are adopted to secure a satisfactory functional result. It is almost tedious to find fault with the text which is largely uncontroversial and represents an up-to-date approach to the whole subject, but it is marred by the statement that the retina becomes fully developed and sensitive enough to register focused images only between the ages of 2 and 3 years and also by the statement that the lack of development of an infant's eyes accounts for the type of convergent squint which usually disappears within the first 8 months. Surely these remarks belong to a bygone age, and in any event are refuted in other parts of the text which stress the need for an early assessment in all cases of suspected squint.

KENNETH WYBAR

The Eye and Systemic Disease. Edited by A. MAUSOLF. 1975. Pp. 450, figs, tables, refs. Mosby, St Louis; Kimpton, London (£21.75)

This publication presents a series of papers given at a symposium organized by the Department of Ophthalmology, Iowa City 1974. In 400 pages the major fields of medical ophthalmology are extensively and refreshingly covered. Each subject under discussion combined papers by a physician and an ophthalmologist, both of whom were accredited experts in their chosen fields. The expertise collected in this way provided interesting discussion periods which are fully reported. These factors serve to make this book one of the most authoritative books on the eye and systemic disease.

Hereditary metabolic diseases were discussed by Fredrickson whose contributions to this subject are already well known, and his ophthalmological partner Podos provided a comprehensive review of the ocular signs to make this a powerful opening for the symposium. An interesting paper by Ditzel from Denmark

discussed disordered oxygen transport by the red cell in diabetics with assessment of 2,3-DPG (2,3-diphosphoglycerate), and this was paired by an interesting review of the ocular signs by Henkind. Almost a quarter of this book is devoted to dermatology and the eye, with extensive systemic (Perry) and ophthalmic (Bietti) coverage. Other topics discussed include collagen diseases and the eye (Kearns), vascular disease (Cogan), gastrointestinal disease (Knox), endocrine disease (Dardenne), blood and reticulo-endothelial disease (Luxembourg), and nutritional disease (Halasa).

The book is beautifully produced, well edited, and contains a most extensive bibliography. It seems a necessary purchase for any ophthalmologist concerned with the wider implications of ophthalmic diagnosis and treatment.

M. D. SANDERS

Helfer des Augenarztes (The Ophthalmologist's Assistant). By KARL VELHAGEN. 1974. Pp. 287, 136 figs, 11 tables, refs. Thieme, Leipzig (DM43.20)

As the title suggests this is a book not so much for the ophthalmologist but for his assistant. It deals with the large variety of tests and procedures that are linked with routine ophthalmic practice. There are chapters on anatomy, basic physiology and optics, but the major part of the book is concerned with the carrying out of single diagnostic techniques and nursing procedures. The ophthalmic assistant in most Continental countries fills the role of receptionist, nursing sister, technician, and secretary and this book is intended as a working manual and vade-mecum.

Unfortunately this type of ophthalmic assistant rarely exists in England but this volume, if it were translated, would be an excellent addition to nurses' libraries, and to the practical manuals found in ophthalmic outpatients and casualty departments.

T. J. FFYTCH

Ocular Manifestations of Inborn Errors of Carbohydrate and Lipid Metabolism (Bibliotheca Ophthalmologica No. 84). Edited by J. FRANÇOIS. 1975. Pp. 175, 85 figs, 3 tables, refs. Karger, Basel (DM74)

It is a pleasure to see this brief, and excellent monograph by one of Europe's most prolific contributors. The subject is one of increasing complexity as biochemical and histological studies continue to define subgroups of the previously well defined clinical syndromes.

The book is divided into three sections on: carbohydrate metabolism, lipid metabolism, and the mucopolysaccharides.

Reference is made only to those disorders that involve the visual system, and in particular, the sensory system.

The text is clear and amplified by numerous illustrations but the bibliography, although considerable, lacks many important recent references. The English is excellent although terms such as dysoric retinopathy (page 87) might elude the most knowledgeable reader. This book obviously suffers from certain disadvantages when an ophthalmologist enters such a complex and changing field. There is thus confusion between Batten-Mayou disease and juvenile GM₂ gangliosidosis, and the complex subject of Niemann-Pick disease could be clarified. The author states that the enzymatic defect of Farber's disease is not known although it was described in 1972.

However, the condensation of information into 173 pages is appealing, and this book is strongly recommended for ophthalmologists as a practical way to keep abreast of this exciting field.

M. D. SANDERS

Ocular Pharmacology. By W. H. HAVENER. 1974. 3rd ed. Pp. 715, figs, tables, refs. Mosby, St Louis; Kimpton, London (£18.30)

This book is drug orientated. Three-quarters of it is devoted to basic pharmacology and the wider use of drugs in ophthalmology. In the remainder current therapy is considered primarily in connection with cataract and glaucoma.

The book is essentially on applied physiology and pharmacology and written by a clinician for clinicians. Most aspects are covered fairly comprehensively with extended chapters on antibiotics, autonomic drugs, and steroids.

In an early general section emphasis is placed on avoiding unnecessary, useless, and wasteful prescriptions and the possibility of serious side-effects of drugs. We are reminded that among contraindications for the use of a drug is often the lack of its specific indication.

The author has a pleasing style and does not hesitate to add his own views. From time to time a point is reinforced with an interesting or amusing anecdote.

D. GREAVES

Symposium on Ocular Therapy, Vol. 7. Edited by I. H. LEOPOLD. 1974. Pp. 134, tables, figs, refs. Mosby, St Louis; Kimpton, London (£10.20)

The contents of this book are not quite what would be expected from the title, as the account is more on the complications of drugs than their beneficial effects, but this adds to rather than detracts from the usefulness of the volume.

It is estimated that 2 to 3 per cent of all congenital malformations are induced by drugs or environmental chemicals, and the first chapter contains a comprehensive review of the ocular lesions induced by drugs taken during

pregnancy. The problems arising from drug interactions and individual susceptibility are next briefly discussed, and these chapters are followed by a long discussion of the diagnosis, pathogenesis, surgical and medical treatment of neovascular glaucoma. In spite of the many procedures suggested, the prognosis for vision is very poor and the best that can be done is to relieve pain.

Vitreous haemorrhage is not amenable to any medical treatment, and a critical analysis of the results of corticosteroid therapy in acute optic neuritis concludes that it is of no benefit. The final chapters contain a brief discussion on prostaglandins and the eye, and the use of aspirin and other prostaglandin synthetase inhibitors in ophthalmology, and a brief review of drug-induced retinopathies.

Although the reader will find no magic drug to enhance his therapeutic potential, he will at least be warned of the dangers inherent in the use of drugs and be more aware of their toxic effects.

E. S. PERKINS

Ultrasonography in Ophthalmology (Proceedings of the Fifth Congress of the International Society for Ultrasonic Diagnostics in Ophthalmology, Ghent, 30 May, 1973). Edited by J. FRANÇOIS and F. GOES. 1974. Pp. 340, 66 tables, 172 figs, refs. Karger, Basel (£25.60)

The reports have been split into four sections dealing in turn with techniques, intraocular and orbital diagnosis, and oculometry.

In a series of communications, scanning was shown to be a useful tool in the diagnosis of vitreous haemorrhage and in excluding or confirming any underlying cause such as tumour or detachment. Similarly, scans may help to differentiate a solid from a fluid or simple detachment. Articles on intraocular foreign body and tumour localization by scanning, and evidence deduced concerning optic nerve and orbital pathology could be of assistance to the surgeon. The possibility of tissue differentiation and ultrasonic velocity change, as seen in cataract, was being explored experimentally as well as from the research point of view. Oculometry was used for measuring anterior chamber depth, eyeball length in myopia and the calculation of dioptric power for acrylic lens implants after cataract extraction. The last paper showed that the method had been helpful in noting changes in lens and anterior chamber size with the use of drugs.

This book is a useful addition to the literature on ultrasonics and follows as a natural companion to the report of the previous congress. The many diagrams and figures allow the book to be easily read and understood by the beginner. It will be a handy reference book for workers in the field and is to be recommended.

G. V. CATFORD