

Health took office, with the sorry happenings that have followed in her wake.

Frank Law, who has been part of Moorfields ever since the first war (when he overlapped with Treacher Collins), helping, and still continuing to help, in so many capacities, was the obvious choice of author; and the book is clear, comprehensive, and indeed a model for the future historians of our great medical institutions.

It must have been a problem to furnish a record of so much change, to catalogue the evolution of all the new departments that have emerged, to give life to all those shadowy personalities that crowded on to the stage, particularly when in 1948 the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital was engulfed, the Institute started, and the 'Royal Westminster' at High Holborn united. Thereafter the changes and emergent departments in the last are decently appended (a résumé of the history of the Royal Westminster from 1816 to 1948 would have been a welcome addition to the record). And, above all, how difficult it must have been to condense that endless stream of minutes which formed the body of the record, with their depressing official jargon, their impersonal tones and passive tenses, their prolixity and stuffiness. One is grateful for the occasional anecdote and fleeting aside. Without them (and one longs for more) it would be rather like reading Bradshaw—an important record, but undeniably heavy going. Even so the biographical sketches of the main characters tend to read like the pious obituary notices from which many of his accounts were doubtless drawn. For they all emerge as virtuous, dedicated, and orthodox; even the unlikeliest of them seems to have started with athletic prowess in some sport, and they all progressed serenely through a succession of standard achievements to an honoured retirement. It is a credit to Law's artistry that in these he manages never to repeat himself.

Every now and then one regrets that the author, who is capable of writing with such spirit and satire, such whimsy and wit, has so muted the sound of artillery over those near-forgotten battles around the Royal College chair, the amalgamation, the birth of the Faculty and so on. He might just have hinted at the foibles and shortcomings of some of the staff now long dead. But he is grave and benevolent throughout—perhaps just as well—one must not look for fun in Leviticus.

P. D. TREVOR-ROPER

International Glaucoma Symposium, Albi 1974. Edited by R. ETIENNE and G. PATERSON. 1975. Pp. 501, fig, tables, refs. Diffusion Générale de Librairie, Marseille (£40)

This book represents the published proceedings of the International Glaucoma Symposium held in Albi in May 1974. In addition there are two extra chapters on the use of ultrasonography in glaucoma and pneumotonomography. It includes contributions from experts in this field and brings the reader up to date on glaucoma. The book is particularly interesting because the discussions are published in full. It is well produced with high quality illustrations including a set of stereophotographs of the optic disc and should prove a useful addition to all ophthalmic libraries.

S. J. H. MILLER

Modern Approaches to the Diagnosis and Instruction of Multihandicapped Children, vol. 13. Eye Movements, Surprise Reactions, and Cognitive Development. By R. M. WILTON and F. J. BOERSMA. 1974. Pp. 69, 2 figs, 6 tables, refs. University Press, Rotterdam (DG29'90)

This is not a book for the general ophthalmologist and it will be of limited interest only to those in the speciality who study the link between recorded eye movements and visual perception. Even so the objectives outlined, namely whether training can accelerate intellectual development and if retarded children differ from normal children in this respect, have little ophthalmological content.

The acceptance by the authors that corneally reflected eye movements in children can be used experimentally as an index of 'perceptual activity' might surprise those of us who deal with children. Educationalists are in a better position than ophthalmologists to judge the value of the main conclusions. These are that the development of intelligence can be accelerated in normal children by training and that visual searching of pictorial material increases with age and/or mental development. These conclusions are supported by no fewer than 11 pages of statistics.

P. A. GARDINER

Modern Problems in Ophthalmology: New Research on the Aetiology and Surgery of Retinal Detachment. By L. GUILLAUMAUT, M. MASSIN, and L. FISON. 1975. Pp. 138, 150 figs, 55 tables. Karger, Basel (DM145)

This book reports the ninth meeting of the proceedings of the Club Jules Gonin which was held in La Baule, France, in 1974. The book is mainly in English but contains some contributions in French and German. The many subjects dealt with included genetics in retinal detachment, the terminology and nature of peripheral retinal degeneration, the non-drainage of subretinal fluid in retinal detachment surgery, and recent advances in vitreous surgery. There were also contributions on photocoagulation. Of particular interest was the work performed by the Miami group on the pathogenesis of intraocular fibrous tissue.

The book is beautifully produced and the illustrations are of high quality. It gives a thoroughly up-to-date account of progress in the management of diseases of the retina and is recommended to ophthalmologists with a special interest in this subject, although all ophthalmologists will find it of value as a source of reference.

A. H. CHIGNELL

Modern Problems in Ophthalmology, vol. 12. Limitations and Prospects for Retinal Surgery. Edited by E. NORTON, R. DUFOUR, C. GAILLOUD, R. KLOTI, and L. FISON. 1974. Pp. 598, 192 figs, 143 tables. Karger, Basel (£25'40)

This volume is a report of the eighth meeting of the Club Jules Gonin held in Miami in 1972.

The main subject was the cause of failure in dealing with detachments of the retina. Several papers dealt with aspects of basic research and experimental work