

words, the book provides considerably more information than its size would suggest. Unfortunately, however, the reduction in size of some photographs, which the inclusion of such a large number has necessitated, has in some instances also reduced their value.

The text is essentially descriptive and is presented in notation form—which makes for ready reference if not for easy reading—so that for a discussion on the aetiology and pathogenesis of most conditions recourse to the original papers and reviews listed at the end of each chapter is imperative. Coming from the pens of practising ophthalmologists there is a welcome emphasis on clinicopathological correlation, a quality which should extend its appeal.

Although there are a few statements with which one might take issue, factual errors are few. There is no good evidence that T-lymphocytes produce antibody and that the ciliary body cysts in multiple myeloma contain gamma rather than alpha globulin.

For a straightforward account of ocular pathology, detailing both light and electron microscopical appearances, this text and atlas is the obvious choice, other books on the same subject being either outdated or less comprehensive, and it can enthusiastically be recommended. Its only drawback for the individual buyer is its price.

A. GARNER

**Practical Cryosurgery.** Edited by H. B. HOLDEN. 1975. Pp. 168, figs, tables, refs. Pitman, London (£5)

Harold Holden, the editor of this volume, has collected authors whose experience of cryotherapy is pre-eminent in each of the fields of treatment discussed. Reference to his own work is made in the chapters on the nose and throat and on the head and neck.

The history and development of cryosurgery and cryosurgical engineering are considered with sufficient detail to interest the reader, although he will be concerned chiefly with the chapters dealing with his own field.

Cryosurgery is described in relation to the majority of its potential uses, and each chapter has an up-to-date and adequate list of references for further reading.

Schoeller introduced cryotherapy experimentally in the treatment of retinal lesions as long ago as 1918, and Bietti described its clinical use in 1934. Cryotherapy is now firmly established as an important technique in ophthalmic surgery. Its wide application in the treatment of conditions affecting most of the ocular tissues is adequately considered. The ophthalmologist will find, either in the text or in the references, all the information he requires to pursue this branch of treatment.

J. R. HUDSON

**Selected Topics on the Eye in Systemic Disease.** Edited by S. J. RYAN and R. E. SMITH.

1974. Pp. 392, figs, tables, refs. Grune & Stratton, New York (£11.75)

This is an excellent book, and one to be read at length as well as being a useful work of reference. It is not a collection of original work, but a selection from a course of lectures given at the Wilmer Institute. It is divided into three sections: Retinal vascular disease, Ocular inflammatory disease, and Rheumatic disease in which are included connective-tissue disorders and arthritis.

Although written by a large number of contributors the style is uniformly good. The English is clear and careful and the presentation suitably brief but comprehensive. A chapter on the systemic manifestations of the condition under discussion is followed by one on the ocular manifestation of the same pathological process. It may be invidious to select specific chapters for special praise but I particularly enjoyed the discussion on diabetic retinopathy, sarcoidosis, and histoplasmosis. The uniformly high standard of the contributions is a tribute to the skill and persuasiveness of the editors. The volume is well produced and the illustrations are clear.

C. J. EARL

**Studies on Excitation and Inhibition in the Retina** (a collection of papers from the laboratories of H. Keffer Hartline). Edited by F. RATCLIFF. 1974. Pp. 668, figs, tables, refs. Chapman & Hall, London (£10.50)

The idea of reprinting a series of previously published articles is not new and the soundness of such a course is often doubtful. No such doubt can befall this most excellent book. All ophthalmologists will have heard of Professor Hartline although many may be less familiar with his work. The foreword to this collection of papers is written by Professor Hartline who modestly implies that his choice of *Limulus polyphemus* as an experimental animal was a lucky chance. More than 40 years ago he started his experimental work which has given us so much information about the peripheral visual system.

There are five sections in this collection, each covering a particular aspect of visual physiology and comprising reprints of papers by Hartline or his co-workers in mainly chronological order showing how the line of research has been developed. Each section is preceded by a review excellently written by the editor. The book ends with Hartline's own review of his work given as his Nobel Prize speech in 1967.

This is not a book the clinician will buy but he will surely be impressed by seeing, in Hartline's own words, that the merit of publication 'lies in exhibiting a short segment of a thread of work that is now woven almost unrecognizably into the fabric of visual science'. It is a fitting tribute to one of the leaders of visual physiology and not marred by a printing slip from pages 410-411. The clarity of these papers will serve as a model to present-day authors.

J. H. KELSEY