Book reviews

Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation. By H. BERGMANN and B. BLAUHUT. 1975. Pp. 176, 79 figs, refs. Springer-Verlag, Berlin (no price given)

Four subjects are discussed in this composite volume—anaesthesia in ophthalmology and in ENT surgery, blood coagulation, and blood gas analysis, and they are presented in 'workshop' form. The articles are designed for postgraduate anaesthetists and the ophthalmic section deals with local and general anaesthesia in ophthalmology, the intraocular pressure, and the oculo-cardiac reflex. The information is up to date and relevant to ophthalmic surgery and this section should be read by those anaesthetists who are concerned with ophthalmic lists.

T. J. FFYTCH

Basic Mechanisms of Ocular Motility and their Clinical Implications (Proceedings of an International Symposium, Wenner-Gren Centre, Stockholm, 4–6 June 1974). Edited by G. LENNERSTRAND and P. BACH-Y-RITA. 1975. Pp. 584, figs, refs. Pergamon Press, Oxford (\$60)

This 24th volume in the series records the proceedings of a three-day meeting held in Stockholm in June 1974. It was planned to encourage interaction between the laboratory scientists and clinical investigators, with the scientist first presenting his subject and the clinician discussing the paper and its clinical implications.

The contributors maintain a high standard in their work which concerns the structure and ageing of extraocular muscles, the motor units, and the oculomotor control system. Next, central mechanisms are discussed with particular reference to the vestibulo-ocular reflex, cerebellar influences, and supranuclear ocular motor control. The high quality of the work is maintained in the free contributions which include several papers on the interaction of head and eye movements.

It would be invidious to single out particular authors since nearly all the leading laboratory researchers and clinicians seem to be represented. The aim of interaction between the two groups is not achieved in the written word, although much useful, unreported discussion occurred outside the lecture hall. Nevertheless the intention was right and this book is an excellent account of a wide range of current work into ocular motor problems. Clinicians who read it will be amply rewarded by their increased understanding of some aspects and in a much better position to ask the right questions of the scientists. We may even be able to ask them in the right, scientific language! This, in fact, is the proposed theme of the next symposium.

PETER FELS

The Eye and its Disorders. By P. D. TREVOR-ROPER. 1974. Pp. 726, figs, refs. Blackwell, Oxford (£11)

This is a reprinting of the 1974 edition, which itself was a new edition of the earlier *Ophthalmology: a Textbook for Diploma Students*, first published in 1955 and subsequently revised in a second edition in 1962. The fact

that a reprinting of the third edition of this textbook has been found necessary testifies to its deserved popularity, which in catering for those preparing for the British diploma in ophthalmology meets a need for a clearly written and not too detailed account of the theoretical basis and practical aspects of ophthalmic medicine and surgery.

The first three sections of the book comprising about one-third of its length deal with anatomy, physiology, and optics while the remaining two sections are concerned with diseases of the outer and inner eye.

The aetiology, pathology, and differential diagnosis of all the important ocular disorders are considered and where appropriate details of both medical and surgical treatment are given. The text is highly readable, and the illustrations are clear and add significantly to the value of the book.

The Eye and its Disorders can be recommended to postgraduates beginning the study of ophthalmology as presenting within short compass a succinct account of ophthalmology in sufficient detail to meet the needs of the diploma student or indeed to act as a useful reference text for the interested undergraduate or general practitioner.

Criticisms are slight. Economic necessity has resulted in grouping the colour plates together so that they no longer relate easily to the appropriate text as in the earlier editions of the book, and perhaps one or two of them have been included because of availability rather than because colour adds significantly to their value. The caption to the illustration of 'physiological cupping' in Plate 3 in which the cup to disc ratio is in the region of 0.7 is arguable, and the retinal tear in Plate 4 is the reverse of the usual appearance where the 'arrow' points posteriorly. Inevitably where such a wide range of subjects is dealt with between the covers of one book depth has to be sacrificed, but in general the subject matter is dealt with in sufficient detail to fulfil its remit. Perhaps the section on glaucoma could be improved for although revised it has a slightly outmoded ambience carried over from earlier editions when our understanding of this group of conditions was even poorer than it is at present. One hopes that future editions may find room for recent developments in the understanding of such conditions as disciform degeneration, ischaemic optic neuropathy, and central serous retinopathy.

There is an excellent index and the quality of the paper and the printing is high. The book can be recommended to the postgraduate student beginning the study of ophthalmology both for its authority and its readability.

W. S. FOULDS

Genetic and Metabolic Eye Disease. Edited by M. F. GOLDBERG. 1974. Pp. 654, tables, figs, refs. Little Brown, Boston (£20.30)

The great advances that have been taking place in genetic and metabolic diseases in general have produced a large number of textbooks and monographs on these subjects. Ophthalmologists have been in the forefront of research into clinical genetics ever since its emergence

as a subject in its own right at the beginning of the century. During the past 20 years there have been relatively few books devoted to ophthalmic genetics and this excellent publication is, therefore, particularly welcome. While every chapter has much to offer the reader, several have been singled out for particular mention, either because of their clinical value or because they are a reflection of the reviewer's particular interests.

Part One is devoted to 'Methods of study in genetic eye disease'. It includes a chapter by George Spaeth on the carrier state and lists more than 60 conditions with ophthalmic manifestations in which the carrier state can often be detected by a biochemical abnormality or an abnormal clinical appearance. Since this chapter was written, the list could probably be considerably enlarged. Fraser discusses the aetiology of severe visual handicap in childhood, a subject which is at last receiving the attention it deserves. It is apparent from his discussion of acquired and genetically-determined causes that there is still much we have to learn about this topic. In a comprehensive and extremely useful chapter Berman describes genetic and metabolic eye diseases and their biochemical diagnostic tests. To illustrate the recent advances that have occurred in this subject, only 2 per cent of the 322 references are over 10 years old.

Part Two is concerned with 'Genetic determination of clinical eye disease'. Bron and Tripathi review the isolated corneal dystrophies and those associated with systemic and with genetically-determined disorders. There is a strong emphasis on the clinical appearance of the cornea in these various conditions, making this chapter particularly valuable to the practising ophthalmologist. The macular dystrophies are ably discussed by Deutman who has finally laid to rest the monistic view of this group of disorders. Until these lesions can be classified biochemically, their morphological classification, as presented here, will be the most useful clinically. The complex group of hereditary disorders of the optic nerve has been ably handled by Glaser while the rapidly growing topic of chromosome deletions and eye disease is discussed by Howard.

Part Three, 'Therapy and prevention of genetic eye disease', consists of chapters on therapeutic principles by Cotlier, ocular pharmacogenetics by Lieberman, and genetic counselling by Irene Maumenee. This is by far the shortest part of the book, but one which could hardly have been envisaged a few years ago. It is hoped that a section such as this written in 10 years' time will be very much larger.

The editor is to be congratulated on producing such a valuable book covering one of the fastest growing areas of ophthalmology. It can be highly recommended to all ophthalmologists for repeated perusal, and should be obligatory reading for all those studying for higher degrees.

BARRIE JAY

More Help for Dyslexic Children. By T. R. MILES and E. MILES. 1975. Pp. 74, figs, refs. Methuen, London (£1.20)

Developmental dyslexia, or congenital word-blindness as it was then called, was first anticipated in 1896 by a Glasgow eye-surgeon—Dr James Hinshelwood. Actually

the very first case of this kind was described by the father of the Emeritus Ophthalmic Surgeon to Guy's Hospital, Mr Gayer Morgan. Because of the nature of the presenting symptom, namely inability to make head or tail of printed or written words, it is not surprising that visuoperceptual errors were queried. The early literature upon this subject was largely made up of case reports published by distinguished ophthalmologists, mainly British, among whom the names of Nettleship, Thomas, Hubert Fisher, Treacher Collins, Stephenson, and Doyme are conspicuous. Later, the focus of attention switched to neurologists who nowadays visualize a genetically-determined localized form of delayed maturation within the learning-process.

In some places, mostly in the United States of America, ophthalmologists for a time renewed their interest in dyslexia, some of whom postulated that a disorder in the eye movements during the act of reading was responsible for retardation in reading, to be cured by courses of eye-exercises. Fortunately, that particular heresy never reached this country and is on its way out in America.

Many eye specialists, however, still see these cases in the early stages and are intrigued thereby, for dyslexia cannot be diagnosed until all perceptual errors have been eliminated.

To those who are interested in this topic, this simple book—and particularly the first two chapters—may be warmly recommended.

M. CRITCHLEY

Ophthalmic Electrodiagnosis. By N. R. GALLOWAY. Vol. 1, Major Problems in Ophthalmology, edited by P. D. TREVOR-ROPER. 1975. Pp. 169, figs, tables, refs. Saunders, Philadelphia (no price given)

Ophthalmologists are in a privileged position among clinicians because the eye is readily accessible for inspection and there are many reliable and sensitive tests of function. It is probably for this reason that electrical methods of investigation have not achieved the wide application apparent in other disciplines. The electrical responses of the visual system were discovered more than a century ago and their study has been most valuable in physiological research. Much basic information has been acquired but unfortunately many of the contemplated diagnostic prospects have proved disappointing because they are less sensitive than established techniques. On the other hand there is a special field in which these methods have a vital use. Many clinicians are unaware of the scope and even of the existence of some of these tests, possibly because of the lack of a clinically orientated description. This book is an attempt to fill this gap.

The first half of the book comprises a glossary of basic electronic terms, the physiological bases of the various retinal tests, and a brief, and perhaps irrelevant, note on other tenuously related investigations.

The second half of the book is devoted to clinical investigations. It is introduced by a chapter on the organization of an electrodiagnostic clinic and the methods of recording normal response. The rest of the section discusses the results of such tests in various ocular diseases.

This book will fulfil the needs of most ophthalmolo-