

gists who wish to understand the place of electrodiagnosis in contemporary ophthalmology. A valuable feature is the list of references at the end of each chapter. Apart from a superficial discussion of cortical responses there are numerous deliberate omissions in the application of retinal tests because these are not of great clinical value.

Many illustrations have been drawn to explain certain points and in general they are clear and useful but Fig. 7.1 does not make clear the enormous amplitude as well as time difference of the EOG and ERG. The clinical ERG traces may also be misleading. The author uses a high intensity stimulus and this, together with the effect on the ERG waveform, is noted in the text. Unfortunately the reader may miss this point and find it difficult to equate some of the author's traces with those in the literature using more conventional stimuli.

Ophthalmic electrodiagnosis is generally accepted to date from 1945 with Karper's monograph although excellent earlier studies had appeared. In the 30 years since then extensive studies have been published and a very active international society has helped the development of the various techniques. It is never safe to say that further major development will not occur but it would seem that the indications and applications of tests of retinal function are fairly clearly established. It is this aspect of visual electrophysiology to which the book is almost entirely devoted. A future edition will no doubt be more concerned with cortical electrical responses.

J. H. KELSEY

**The Perception of Colour.** By R. M. EVANS. 1974. Pp. 248, figs, tables, refs. Wiley, Chichester (£9.95)

Evans wrote a standard work on colour a quarter of a

century ago, and in this posthumous publication he stresses the dissatisfaction he experienced in trying to organize basic colour-matching data in terms of stimulus parameters. This is why he wanted to put forward a design for a new system, called 'perceptual colorimetry'. Classical 'stimulus colorimetry' is a sharp tool, perfected for the protection of manufacturers but it is uninformative when it comes to communication on the subjective experience of colour. This is what he tried to remedy in this book.

Few other works on this subject cope without some coloured illustrations, and none with only 13 diagrams and a description of the structure of the eye by the printed word alone. Evans nevertheless manages to get across his message, which is, basically, that conventional colorimetry represents an unrealistic abstraction. He is much concerned with simultaneous contrast and with surface attributes, since what matters to him is colour as he perceived it. We rarely see colours in the isolation enforced by a colorimeter, however sophisticated it may be in concept. Evans was emphatic about the inadequacies of standard systems, yet, true physicist that he was, he believed in the possibility of a standard observer.

Evans takes tentative steps to deal with adaptation but seems wholly ignorant of the work done on this aspect of perception by R. W. G. Hunt and others. While he sees the difficulty associated with ingrained terminologies, he is as baffled by object colours as Aristotle was. However, Evans had an advantage over the Greek philosopher; he could (but does not seem to) have conversed with physiologists. He would have learnt that the very crystalline lens which he believed to image the outside world on to the retina makes impossible a standard study or a universally valid system.

R. A. WEALE

## Notes

### Rudolph Ellender Medical Foundation

*New Orleans, 2 to 3 October 1976*

The Rudolph Ellender Medical Foundation will present the first annual Ophthalmocryosurgical Seminar in conjunction with its third annual Dermatocryosurgical Seminar.

The faculty will include: Frederick T. Fraunfelder MD, Little Rock, Arkansas, John Sullivan MD, San Jose, California, and Setrag A. Zacarian MD, Springfield, Massachusetts.

### 10th Panhellenic Ophthalmological Congress

*Greece, 27 to 29 May 1977*

Topics to be discussed at the 10th Panhellenic Ophthalmological Congress include: heredity in ophthalmology, and surgery of congenital cataract.

Simultaneous translation in Greek and English will be available. For further information write to the

Secretariat of the 10th Panhellenic Ophthalmological Congress, c/o Hellenic Ophthalmological Society, National Ophthalmological Centre, 170 Avenue, Messoghion, Chologros, Athens, Greece.