

## Book reviews

**Chromosomal Aberrations in Ophthalmology.** By J. FRANÇOIS, R. BERGER, and H. SARAUX. 1975. Pp. 504, 245 figs, 15 tables, refs. Van Gorcum, Assen/Amsterdam (225.00 D.fl.)

In 1972 the Annual Report to the Société Française d'ophtalmologie, *Les Aberrations Chromosomiques en Ophtalmologie*, appeared and has become the standard work on cytogenetics and ophthalmology. This translation is essentially that of the original work, except for the first part on the elements of cytogenetics which has been revised to include the new techniques of chromosome banding. Regrettably, but understandably, the main chapters which are devoted to detailed descriptions of ophthalmic abnormalities associated with chromosomal anomalies have not been up-dated. The book is lavishly illustrated and has an exhaustive bibliography.

While this edition, in which the translation into English is adequate, is an admirable work of reference and will be a model of its kind for many years, the original is to be recommended to all those with a good knowledge of French.

BARRIE JAY

**Concussive and Penetrating Injuries of the Globe and Optic Nerve.** By T. E. RUNYAN. 1975. Pp. 221, figs, refs. Mosby, St Louis; Kimp-ton, London (£16.25)

This is a comprehensive and well-written account of ocular trauma and its management. The text, which is arranged anatomically, is enhanced by the frequent use of short case histories and the illustrations and diagrams (by the author himself) are first class. In the more controversial areas, such as the management of hyphaema, there is a more detailed discussion and appraisal of the recent literature but in many fields, such as the surgical treatment of traumatic cataract, the author draws upon his own experience. Here he favours the intracapsular approach in young adults. The last chapter, on diagnostic techniques, is a useful conclusion to a book which although expensive deserves a place in the ophthalmic library.

R. COAKES

**Current Medical Treatment**, 4th ed. By C. W. H. HAVARD. 1976. Pp. 783, refs. Wright, Bristol (£10)

Nearly one half of prescriptions today are for drugs which did not exist five years ago. Hence the need for *Current Medical Treatment*. Chapter 21 on diseases of the eye is written by John Dobree and as one would expect it is a gem of sparkling compression.

It is impossible of course to write a textbook on medical treatment without reference to disease and one of the striking and most useful aspects of this book is the introduction to the syndrome under discussion because therein often lies the briefest summary of the significant and important features. Such pronouncements are most valuable to the specialist so absorbed by his

own particular problem that he is unable to sort out the wheat from the chaff of other disciplines.

An ophthalmologist reading through these pages cannot but fail to note an ophthalmic aspect to the majority of medical diseases. Most organisms and many viruses affect the eye, a large number of drugs have secondary ocular effects, the endocrine and haemopoietic systems have their ophthalmic complications and neurological disease can hardly help offending either the sensory or motor ocular system. These ophthalmic overtones make *Current Medical Treatment* almost compulsive reading for the lively ophthalmologist who cares to open its covers and, as a source of reference in therapeutics, this text must surely be in a class of its own.

S. J. H. MILLER

**Introducing WHO.** 1976. Pp. 88, figs. World Health Organization, Geneva (Sw.fr.10)

A paperback production of what is now the standard periodical size. This profusely illustrated and highly informative volume will serve a useful purpose in many fields, for WHO is an organization which tends in some quarters to be taken for granted and then ignored. A foreword by the Director General, Dr Halfdun Mahler, is followed by an account of the origin and development of international health co-operation, a description of the nature and structure of WHO, and of the scope of its activities, a subject amplified in a later section. The prevention and control of specific diseases and the methods of work of the organization are fully treated; inevitably the budgeting and administration sides are described. Annexes give notes on publications and documents, and addresses of associated bodies. This book will be most welcome to those who want to know more—or indeed—all about the WHO.

A list of addresses of suppliers of WHO publications throughout the world is appended; in this country they may be obtained from HM Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6HB, as well as from the listed addresses in many other cities.

F. W. LAW

**L'Année Thérapeutique et Clinique en Ophtalmologie.** International Congress of Ophthalmology. 1974. Pp. 701, figs, tables, refs. Librairie Fiiéri, Lamy, Marseille (no price given)

This interesting book contains, presumably in some cases in a shortened form but including numerous illustrations, a large number of communications published at various meetings and symposia in France during 1974. The papers are in several languages but French and English predominate.

There is full coverage of the International Symposium on the Visual Field (in fact this section occupies most of the book) and there is an account of the Symposium on Ophthalmic Education.

The book is of a general interest but is particularly important to those concerned with perimetry or with ophthalmic teaching.

REDMOND SMITH