

two different classes of neurones in the afferent visual nervous system, and integrates this with well defined and controlled psychophysical experiments on pattern and motion.

The book begins with a chapter by Y. Le Grand on the history of research on seeing and ends with a chapter by M. H. Pirenne on vision and art. These two chapters are the most refreshing and readable chapters in the entire book. However, the reader who may have started with the hope of arriving at a clear picture of the results of many years of research on seeing will be left within a pool of detailed, conflicting, and poorly organized data.

A list of references at the end of each chapter may provide a useful source, though the choice of the references is always influenced by the personal views of each author.

H. IKEDA

**Principles and Practice of Optical Dispensing and Fitting, 3rd ed.** By L. S. SASIENI. 1975. Pp. 589, figs, tables. Butterworth, London (£15)

This book covers a wide scope and there is a comprehensive survey of materials and types of frames, but out-of-date photographs have been used.

The chapters on rules and facial measurements are enlightening for learners for whom this book is primarily written, and the revision sections at the end of chapters are useful. The survey of lenses available is comprehensive and a chapter on vision screeners is welcome.

The price, however, puts this edition in the category of a book to which a student would refer, but not necessarily be able to purchase.

J. A. MORRIS

**Rational Diagnosis and Treatment.** By H. R. WULFF. 1976. Pp. 182, 25 figs, 18 tables, refs. Blackwell, Oxford (£3.75)

As the author states in his introduction, the aim of this book is to emphasize that clinical decision-making must be as rational as possible, and to that end the doctor should have a clear idea of the reliability of the data obtained from the medical history, physical examination, and laboratory tests as well as the process by which a diagnosis was made so that suitable treatment can be selected. Although the examples are largely drawn from gastroenterology, the critical approach to the decision-making process is applicable in any clinical field.

Of necessity, statistical evaluation is given prominence, but the clear explanation of the methods used should not deter the non-mathematical reader. The chapters on diagnosis and the assessment of new diagnostic methods are particularly interesting, and if the critical approach outlined in this book were more widely adopted, patients would be spared many uncomfortable and expensive investigations. The evaluation of treatment, particularly

the interpretation of reports of clinical trials is well discussed, and the importance of controlled therapeutic trials emphasized. All clinicians will find this book stimulating and interesting.

E. S. PERKINS

**The Squinting Child.** By R. BRUCKNER. 1976. Pp. 78, 20 figs. Schwabe, Basel and Stuttgart (18 fr)

This small book is designed to inform parents, nurses, social workers, and teachers about the problem of squints. The anatomy and physiology of the visual apparatus is described in simple terms with the aid of a few diagrams. The pathogenesis of squint and the non-surgical and surgical methods of treatment are discussed. This is an unpretentious book, demanding little knowledge and providing useful information for those concerned in school clinics and in social work among children.

T. J. FFYTCH

**Techniques of Anophthalmic Cosmesis.** Edited by P. GUIBOR and M. GUIBOR. 1976. Pp. 232, figs, refs. Stratton, New York (No price given)

This is one of the first textbooks to be almost totally confined to the techniques of an ophthalmic prosthesis. Of especial interest will be those techniques described in congenital anophthalmia and the modifications to the moulded prosthesis to correct ptosis sulcus retraction after enucleation. Some surgical techniques are described but, in most instances, these are brief and help to embellish the text; I hope that at some future date a text entirely devoted to the prosthetics will become available. It would appear that the technique of enucleation, evisceration of the eye and orbit has been neglected; as an end procedure this has special relevance to the younger person and his future life in society and is therefore important.

MONTAGUE RUBEN

**Vision and Acquisition: Fundamentals of Human Visual Performance, Environmental Influences, and Applications in Instrumental Optics.** By I. Overington. 1976. Pp. 380, figs, tables, refs. Pentech Press, London (£14)

This book gives a detailed mathematical and physical account of the factors which modify vision. As only some 6 per cent of the account relates to the basic properties of the human visual system, it has but limited interest for ophthalmologists.

However, it is of great value, firstly to those engaged in the design of optical instruments, and secondly, to those interested in the factors which affect visual perception under difficult viewing conditions, such as object movement and atmospheric turbulence.

R. FISHER