Book reviews

Current Concepts of the Vitreous, Including Vitrectomy. Edited by K. A. GITTER. 1976. Pp. 289, figs, tables, refs. Mosby, St. Louis (London, Henry Kimpton) (£20.50)

Vitrectomy via the pars plana is arguably the most exciting recent advance in ophthalmology, and these proceedings of a tutorial conference held in New Orleans in April 1975 serve to underline the established place of this new technique in our surgical armamentarium. Most of the best-known workers in the field of vitreous surgery contributed to its pages with the notable exception of Dr Robert Machemer, of Miami, whose inspiration and influence on the evolution of vitrectomy are nevertheless evident throughout.

The conference considered vitreous anatomy and pathology, preoperative clinical and ultrasonic evaluation of cases, the vitreous and cataract surgery, and techniques of open-sky and pars plana vitrectomy. The use of the Douvas Rotoextractor was described and illustrated in particular detail, and results from various centres are documented. Diabetic vitreous haemorrhage and ocular trauma were considered in depth, though few hard facts emerged as to how and when the lens should be removed in diabetic patients with vitreous haemorrhage, for example, or whether fibrous proliferation can be prevented by early vitrectomy following trauma.

The contributors emphasised that the vitrectomist must combine a facility in microsurgical technology with expertise in all aspects of retinal surgery. Certainly, the chapters and round-table discussions on operative and postoperative complications should be read by anyone contemplating performing the 'occasional' vitrectomy; they make suitably harrowing reading. D. MCLEOD

1st International Congress on Vision and Road Safety. 1976. Pp. 500, figs, tables, refs. Prevention Routière Internationale. Lines, Montlhéry (No price)

This is the report of an international congress on vision and road safety which was held in France in 1976. The meeting considered all aspects of safety in relation to the driving of mechanically propelled vehicles. The standards for driving vary greatly in different countries, and there is no consensus of opinion on what is a suitable visual standard for driving.

The meeting discussed many different aspects of the visual standards required for safe driving, and it is to be hoped that these discussions among representatives of different countries will result in some standardisations of the visual acuity which should be required for driving motor vehicles in all parts of the world. S. J. H. MILLER

Intraocular Lenses. Transactions of the University of Illinois Symposium on Intraocular Lenses. By T. WILENSKY. 1976. Pp. 182, figs, bibliography. Appleton-Century Crofts, New York (Prentice/Hall International, Hemel Hempstead) (£13.20)

The book opens with a history of pseudophakia and a

chapter follows on 'Indications for Intraocular Lens Implantation' by Norman Jaffe. There follows a chapter on Surgical Technique as applied to the various types of implant—the Choyce Mark VIII anterior chamber implant, the Worst Medallion lens, the Fyodorov lens, the Copeland iris plane lens, and the Binkhorst iris-clip lens. The selection of lenses is discussed and the question of intracapsular versus extracapsular cataract extraction is reviewed and also the matter of the implanting of lenses in children. There follows a valuable section on complications of intraocular lenses and their management. Surgical complications are discussed by Drews, glaucoma by Galin, cystoid macular oedema by Jaffe, and uveitis and corneal dystrophy by Choyce, and retinal detachments by Goldbaum. Medicolegal considerations in intraocular lens implantation are reviewed, and Sherwin Fox describes some experimental lens implantation carried out in animals. Finally, there is a round-table discussion by the panel, where many points in technique are freely discussed. S. J. H. MILLER

Documenta Ophthalmologica Proceedings. Vol 12. Symposium on Medical Therapy in Glaucoma. Edited by E. L. GREVE. 1976. Pp. 137, figs, refs. Junk, The Hague (Dtch glds 40)

This symposium was organised to provide the general ophthalmologist with recent knowledge about medical therapy in glaucoma. The treatment of glaucoma simplex is still limited to the lowering of intraocular pressure by increasing the outflow or diminishing the secretion or both.

The opening chapter is on factors influencing the concentrations of a drug and its site of action in the eye, and this leads to a discussion on membrane technology as applied to the therapeutic possibilities of controlled delivery of drugs. The actions and uses of parasympathomimetic drugs in glaucoma are discussed at some length, and this account is followed by a chapter on cholinergic drugs. There is an interesting contribution on experiences with Ocuserts and further sections on the adrenergic preparations and their possible use in the treatment of glaucoma. Finally there are chapters on the ocular hypotensive effect of atenolol and oxprenolol, on the criteria for the initiation of treatment in patients with suspected glaucoma, and the general management of glaucoma patients both medical and surgical.

The areas where advances have been made are the continuous zero-order release of drugs which avoid overdose-underdose, employ a lower quantity of the drug with a better control of night pressure, and the avoidance of the psychological effects of the use of eye drops 4 times a day. The other area which shows signs of advancement is the use of beta-blocking drugs, which may prove a valuable aid to non-miotic therapy if tachyphylaxis can be overcome. Each chapter has a useful bibliography. This slim, well-written volume will not overtax the busy practitioner. At the same time it will bring him up to date in the medical therapy of glaucoma, indicating where such therapy is likely to be modified as a result of investigations and research. S. J. H. MILLER