

## Book reviews

**Modern Problems in Ophthalmology.** Vol. 18. *Turning Points in Retinal Surgery.* Edited by E. B. STREIFF, E. W. D. NORTON, C. GAILLOSEL, and B. DAICKER. 1977. Pp. 546, figs, refs. Karger, Basle (DM245)

This book reports the tenth meeting of the Jules Gonin Club. The five main topics dealt with are ultrasonography and retinal detachment, the diagnosis and treatment of retinoblastoma, vitreous surgery, recent advances in chorioretinal surgery, and the influence of changing cataract technique on retinal pathology and surgery.

As is usual in the Gonin Club, the topics dealt with are assessed by international retinal experts and offer an interesting cross-section of techniques currently employed. Now that vitreous surgery is being widely practised, the ultrasonography sections underline the value and necessity of this investigation, which provides the surgeon with information about the retina in the presence of opaque media. A large series of retinoblastomas treated in London is reported, reflecting steady improvement in technique and prognosis.

The relatively new subject of vitreous surgery is comprehensively discussed. This topic has attracted a large number of different instruments for performing this operation, and there are papers from protagonists of the different machines. Of particular significance has been the contribution from the Miami Retinal Group. In the same section the use of intraocular gases is dealt with. Recent advances in choroidoretinal surgery demonstrate the ingenuity of some authors even though some of the suggestions seem clinically unattractive. The last section deals with the relationship of the anterior segment surgeon to the retinal surgeon, a subject that will be of increasing interest with progressive use of vitrectomy instruments for anterior segment work.

Of particular value in the book are the discussions which highlight the apparent differences between the European and the Anglo-American approach to retinal problems. A minority of papers are published in French and German with English summaries. The book is well

produced and makes a fine addition to any library, although it is too specialised for the general ophthalmologist. It is strongly recommended to the retinal surgeon and will provide hours of enjoyable reading.

A. G. CHIGNELL

**Becker-Shaffer's Diagnosis and Therapy of the Glaucomas.** 4th edn. A. E. KOLKER and J. HETHERINGTON. 1976. Pp. 526, 448 figs., tables, refs. Mosby: St. Louis (£30.50)

A new edition of this excellent text is most welcome, and the authors have managed to improve considerably on the highly regarded previous edition. The book is 31 pages longer and includes fresh work on electron microscopy, outflow studies, visual fields, optic disc changes, and surgical procedures. After an exhaustive classification is an improved chapter on gonioscopy, with many practical hints on technique demonstrated with great clarity. Next come sections beautifully illustrated on gonioscopic and microscopic anatomy and the clinical significance of gonioscopic findings. Tonometry and tonography are dealt with in four sections, the last of which is again an account of clinical applications. Ophthalmoscopy and perimetry are described in the next section, and there follows a section devoted to the principal clinical features of the major classical types of glaucoma. Medical and surgical treatment are then described, the section on surgical operations being comprehensive and clearly illustrated. Of the final chapters the penultimate, in which a series of tonograms are presented, is possibly now of questionable value, but in view of the origins of the book from a stronghold of tonography they have a certain nostalgic quality. And—who knows?—the story of tonometry may not yet be over.

This is a superbly produced textbook which is an adornment to any ophthalmologist's library, and the authors are to be congratulated once again.

REDMOND J. H. SMITH

## Notes

### Third Visual Field Symposium

The International Perimetric Society (IPS) will hold the Third International Visual Field Symposium in Tokyo, Japan, on 3-6 May 1978. It is open to all IPS members and their guests. For details contact Dr E. L. Greve,

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