Book reviews

Vitreoretinal Disorders: Diagnosis and Management. By F. I. TOLENTINO, C. L. SCHEPENS, and H. MACKENZIE FREEMAN. 1976. Pp. 659, figs., tables, refs. W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia. (Eastbourne, Holt-Saunders) (\$43.50)

The need for a comprehensive textbook on the subject of vitreoretinal disorders, of which the surgical management has developed remarkably over the past few years, is met by this new work, under the authorship of workers well recognised as pre-eminent in the field, who share the additional advantage of association with the same institution.

The first part of the book brings the reader up to date with advances in the knowledge of vitreous physiology and biochemistry, an essential basis on which to consider the broad spectrum of vitreous and vitreoretinal disorders, the description and discussion of which constitute the major portion of the book. The fourth part, which deals with vitreous surgery in all its aspects, provides the detailed description and critical commentary most likely to be of value to the specialised worker in this field.

The entire volume is written to give a full account of the subject, enhanced in each part by a critical and personal approach made possible only by the extensive clinical experience of the authors. The assessment of the appropriate instrumentation, the views expressed on the underlying pathology of vitreous and vitreoretinal disorders, and the cautious consideration of the value of currently popular methods of vitreous surgery exemplify this approach.

The excellent text is particularly well illustrated. Each chapter includes a full list of references, and the book can be confidently recommended to the aspiring worker in the field of vitreoretinal disease. The chapters on instrumentation and examination technique will be of special interest to postgraduate students seeking a practical introduction to this aspect of their curriculum.

J. R. HUDSON

Management of Ocular Injuries. By D. PATON and M. F. GOLDBERG. 1976. Pp. 381, 158 figs., 22 tables, bibliography. Saunders, Philadelphia, London, Toronto (£10.75)

This book is small enough to be carried easily and is written by two authors well known in the field of trauma, who write with authority. The style is refreshing, easy to read and understand. There is a tendency to use colloquial phrases rather than aiming at higher literary quality. It is very practical and allows quick reference by very useful tables throughout; it is also well illustrated.

Urgencies and emergencies are considered as well as injuries. For instance, central retinal arterial occlusion, acute glaucoma, orbital cellulitis, cavernous sinus thrombosis, gonococcal ophthalmia, acute iritis, giant cell arteritis, and retinal detachment are considered as urgent

situations. Optic neuritis, ocular tumours, exophthalmos, chronic glaucoma, old retinal detachments, and squint with amblyopia are tabulated as semiurgent problems. The differential diagnosis of the blurred optic disc is discussed. There is a section on ocular infections related to injury which goes into more detail than would be expected from the title of the book and its preface.

There are some detailed criticisms. Basic equipment is described, including instruments which are very unlikely to be properly maintained in accident room conditions. They would need to be looked after by more specialised staff. The commonest site of intraocular foreign bodies (i.e., lying in the vitreous against the retina) is not indicated in text or diagram (p. 101-102). The EMI-scan is described as a non-radiographic technique (p. 119). The magnet test is advocated to determine magnetic properties, despite the availability of electronic detectors which can determine this without introducing the danger of an unnecessary movement of a foreign body. The magnet test can allow the mistaken diagnosis of a non-magnetic fragment if incarceration prevents the fragment from moving (p. 147). The overlapping trapdoor sclerotomy is not mentioned; the less satisfactory circumferential linear sclerotomy is advocated for the pars plana approach (p. 149). Greater reference to the value of ultrasonography and electrophysiology in assessment would be welcome (p. 209). The suggestion that a luxated lens can be kept in the anterior chamber by miotics is no longer widely held, and some means of instrumental fixation before surgical incision is more appropriate (p. 304).

In the context of the whole book these are minor criticisms. The text is very forward-looking with regard to the application of new instruments in the management of ocular trauma and reflects the many changes which have developed recently. There is an extensive bibliography but relatively few references to European work. It seems to cover American sources comprehensively.

This very manageable volume will have great value to all working in general or ophthalmic accident and emergency departments whether medical, nursing, or paramedical, and it is a source of clear-cut and up-to-date views.

M. J. ROPER-HALL

Nuclear Ophthalmology: Dynamic Function Studies in Intra-ocular Disease. By J. O'ROURKE. 1976. Pp. 156, figs, tables, refs. W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia (\$10.50)

The author is both physicist and ophthalmic surgeon and combines these two disciplines to practical effect by the application of nuclear medicine techniques to the measurement of ocular physiology and pathology. This slender volume describes the author's own experience in selected techniques and does not discuss the work of others in related fields. An informative introduction describes the general principles of the use of radio-