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-

isotopes in ophthalmic measurement. This is followed by detailed descriptions which include measurement of clearance from the anterior chamber, capillary exchange as measured by xenon-133 clearance and phosphorus-32 uptake by malignant melanomas. The book can be recommended for its practical value to workers in this field.

NICHOLAS BROWN

Biométrie Oculaire Clinique (Oculométrie). By Y. DELMARCELLE, J. FRANÇOIS, F. GOES, J. COLLIGNON-BRACH, J. LUYCKX-BACUS, and H. VERBRAEKEN. 1976. Pp. 608, 192 figs., 116 tables, bibliography. Paris, Masson (250 fr).

This is a factual account of the dimensions of the eye, its adnexa, and contents as these relate to clinical practice. Apart from a simple account of the problems of biological measurement there is but little discussion of the reliability of the data presented or the problems of obtaining a specific ocular measurement. This somewhat detracts from the value of the book for those who are undertaking some new work in this field. However, as a book of reference it is excellent, and an extensive bibliography contributes much to its value.

R. F. FISHER

Medical Ophthalmology. Edited by F. CLIFFORD ROSE. 1976. Pp. 574, figs., refs. Chapman & Hall, London (£15)

Thirty-five contributors, the large majority from London, have produced an up-to-date, well-indexed, comprehensive book on the most important aspects of non-operative ophthalmology. It is divided as follows: Part I, Diagnostic Aspects, pp. 1-68 (tests of visual function, fluorescein angiography, electrophysiology, radiology of unilateral proptosis); Part II, Neuro-ophthalmology, pp. 69-237; Part III, Inflammatory Disorders, pp. 238-338 (excluding pyogenic infections); Part IV, Vascular Disorders, pp. 339-429; Part V, Other Systemic Disorders, pp. 430-517

(diabetes, Graves's disease, blood disorders, cataract); Part VI, General Therapeutic Aspects, pp. 518-555 (genetics, pharmacology, adverse drug reactions). Each chapter starts with a useful list of topics covered and ends with references.

This entirely new book will be useful and not too large for candidates for higher degrees in ophthalmology and for any clinician, especially the ophthalmologist and neurologist, who requires a concise account of eye-related disease and its management. Reasons of cost probably explain the absence of colour plates, but some of the black-and-white illustrations could be improved. £15 seems reasonable for this handsome volume. The quickly accumulating new material on this subject will probably justify new editions every 5 to 10 years, which the multiple authorship should be able to achieve without too much difficulty.

C. J. PHILLIPS

Year Book of Ophthalmology. Edited by W. F. HUGHES. 1976. Pp. 376, 73 figs., tables, refs. Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago (£14)

The 1976 volume reviews the literature up to January 1976 and maintains its high standard of compression and clarity. In addition to the abstracts the editor summarises present trends and highlights important aspects. The section on vision, refraction, and contact lenses has an introduction by Jack Hartstein; the section on glaucoma has a chapter by Jeffrey S. Robin and Philip P. Ellis on developments in pilocarpine therapy; there is an introduction to the section on the lens by Samuel D. McPherson and to the section on the uvea by T. F. Schaeffel; in the section on the retina Gerald A. Fishman discusses rhodopsin and visual excitation; and the section on neuro-ophthalmology is introduced by Michael E. Rosenberg. These chapters add to the character of the production, which can be read in small quantities over a prolonged period. It is, furthermore, an excellent source of references.

S. J. H. MILLER

Notes

XXIII International Congress of Ophthalmology

Kyoto, Japan, 14-20 May 1978

This congress will be held in the Kyoto International Conference Hall. Official languages are English, French, Spanish and Japanese. Scientific programme will consist of reports on (1) ocular immunology and (2) retinal pigment epithelium. There will be round-table discussions on ocular toxicology, choroidal circulation, management of corneal diseases, optic neuropathy, pathology of visual cells, vitreous surgery, and infections of the eye. In addition there will be free papers.

There will also be symposia supported by the International Council. (1) The International Organisation Against Trachoma will meet on 16 May 1978. (2) The International Agency for Prevention of Blindness will meet on 17 May 1978. (3) The International Study

Committee for Teaching and Postgraduate Continuing Education in Ophthalmology will meet on 19 May 1978. (4) The International Glaucoma Club will meet at the Nara Hotel, Nara, 8-11 May 1978.

Those who wish to present papers or films or to enter items of display in the scientific exhibition are requested to submit their application forms with an abstract on their paper, film, or display of 200 words or less in one of the official congress languages by 30 April 1977. Inquiries to the Secretariat, XXIII International Congress of Ophthalmology, c/o Simul International Inc., Kowa Bldg. No. 9, 1-8-10 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107, Japan. Telephone (03) 582-4224, Cable, SIMULCONFER.