Book reviews

Practical Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. By M. J. REEH, C. K. BEYER, and G. M. SHANNON. 1976. Pp. 203, figs., refs. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia (Henry Kimpton, London) (£15.95)

All self-respecting plastic surgeons have a method of their own for tackling problems in reconstruction, and though the hairs of their heads may be numbered it is unlikely that the same can be said for their permutations and combinations. For the ophthalmic surgeon there is therefore a crying need for a simple book clearly written and illustrated describing well-tried plastic procedures for conditions affecting the eyes and their adnexa. This book is just such a treatise, consisting of 200 pages liberally illustrated with photographs and backed up by excellent line diagrams. The authors are fortunate in having the support of the classical work of Lester Jones and Margaret Obeart. It is a text to be read and kept for reference. Like the *A to Z* street-plan of London or the map of the underground subway, the reader should keep it handy when about to explore fresh territory or revisit a half-forgotten area.

The titles of the chapters give an adequate prospectus of the ground covered—Anatomy and Physiology, Basic Principles, Preoperative Evaluation, Tumour Evaluation, Eyelid Reconstruction, Surgery of the Canthus, Blepharoptosis, Malpositions of the Eyelids (Entropion and Ectropion), Blepharoplasty, Lachrymal System, Conjunctival Surgery, and The Orbit (Enophthalmos, Exophthalmos, Orbital Fractures, Exenteration).

STEPHEN MILLER

Wolff's Anatomy of the Eye and Orbit. By R. WARWICK. 1976. Pp. 536, figs. 467, tables, refs. H. K. Lewis, London (£13)

This book—'Eugene Wolff's Anatomy of the Eye and Orbit'—or to add its full title—'including the central connections, development and comparative anatomy of the visual apparatus'—was written originally in 1933. It rapidly became established as the standard work on the anatomy of the eye and its related structures with a world-wide circulation, and it is interesting that the author was an ophthalmic surgeon who built up a large and successful consulting practice in London. Apart from his hospital commitments, he was able to find time to make many original contributions in the fields of ocular anatomy and pathology and also in clinical ophthalmology, quite apart from the production of several textbooks.

The seventh edition of this treatise has been produced by Professor Roger Warwick, who is an anatomist of renown, and it is indeed fortunate that he has combined his interest in anatomy as a whole with a deep interest in certain aspects of ocular anatomy, particularly the complex distribution of the motor centres of the extrinsic ocular muscles in the brain stem. It is obvious that any book which has reached its seventh edition in just over

40 years must have increased in size and also altered in content, and though anatomy might be regarded as a fairly established subject it is interesting that about a quarter of the text has had to be rewritten since the previous edition was produced in 1968. It is interesting also, however, that many parts of the original text have been retained, with the beautiful illustrative drawings of the anatomical artist of renown, A. K. Maxwell. It seems perhaps a pity that there is no mention of the great contribution which was made by Professor R. J. Last in keeping the book alive with the production of the sixth edition after the untimely death of Eugene Wolff some years previously.

There can be very few criticisms of a book of this kind which has been written and maintained with scrupulous care over the years. It is a pity that the method of demonstrating the position of the eye in the orbit is limited to the injection of a saturated solution of lead nitrate into the eye, which is applicable only to the cadaver, whereas ultrasonography or the EMI scan can provide an accurate measurement in the living, as well as in the dead, state. There is no mention of Egger's line (the presumed circular line of attachment between the anterior vitreous face and the posterior lens capsule), which is perhaps a matter of anatomical debate, but it is of considerable importance in the management of congenital cataract, and clinical experience endorses the view that some form of tenuous attachment is a normal feature which becomes accentuated in certain pathological states. The description of the actions of the superior and inferior obliques is rather stereotyped and takes no account of the wide variations which the tendons of the superior oblique and the inferior oblique must make with the vertical meridian and which have a great clinical importance.

This book should be compulsory reading for any young person who is embarking on a career in ophthalmology, because a sound clinical knowledge must be built up on a firm background knowledge of the basic sciences. It should perhaps also be an essential item in the library of established ophthalmic surgeons.

KENNETH WYBAR

System of Ophthalmology, vol. XV, Summary of Systemic Ophthalmology and Indices. S. DUKE-ELDER and R. E. SOLEY. 1976. Pp. 490, refs. Henry Kimpton, London (£17.50)

Volume 15 of *System of Ophthalmology* is divided into three parts. Part 1 is a summary of systemic ophthalmology occupying 180 pages. It includes systemic, neurological, and dermatological diseases and syndromes with ophthalmological implications. References for each syndrome are given to the volume and page number of the *System*, and where important contributions have been made since the earlier volumes were published reference to these contributions has been appended. Part 2 is a small section giving an index of names of those who have contributed greatly to ophthalmology and whose biographies are illustrated elsewhere. The last