Three very informative chapters on contact lenses emphasise the growing importance of these in practice. Glaucoma, tonometry, tonography, and visual-field testing are described. There are an atlas of eye diseases, a glossary of terms, and tables of drugs. Practical advice on blind patients and their problems will be valuable to those meeting them for the first time. Backwardness in reading in children and the difficulties in the management of these disabilities are discussed fully.

The running of an eye clinic increasingly depends on ancillary staff, and this textbook provides for them a very useful guide. For those wanting to test themselves there is a list of questions after each chapter. G. B. COLLYER

The Visual Fields. A Text-book and Atlas of Clinical Perimetry. 4th edn. By D. O. HARRINGTON. 1976. Pp. 413, figs., refs. Mosby, St. Louis (London, Henry Kimpton) (£20.30)

In the introduction to the first edition the author quotes the old cliché that 'one picture is worth ten thousand words', and this led him to design the book as an atlas, a concept which is underscored by the retention of the word 'Atlas' in the title. As an excellently illustrated atlas Dr Harrington has undoubtedly achieved his objective.

In his preface to the fourth edition he points out that new complex instruments and techniques have lengthened the time requirements of perimetric examination, which has resulted in the delegation of much field examination to trained paramedical technicians. But he stresses that this should not relieve the ophthalmologist of the responsibility of carefully supervising such technicians and observing the response of the patient. 'When such an important subjective psychophysical test is not conducted by the physician it loses much of its diagnostic value' . . . and 'thus there is no real substitute for the visual field examination by the ophthalmologist himself'. This is a view that Traquair would certainly have endorsed.

The only criticism of this excellent atlas of clinical perimetry is that the reading as well as the distant visual acuity is not recorded on many of the charts. A superbly illustrated guide to the art of perimetry, this book well deserves the popularity it has achieved. G. I. SCOTT

Oculoplastic Surgery and Trauma. Edited by Pierre Guibor. 1976. Pp. 234, figs., tables, refs. Stratton Intercontinental, New York (\$17.95)

This attractively presented volume contains the selected papers and round-table discussions of the annual meeting

of the American Society of Contemporary Ophthalmology.

The first 4 chapters are devoted to the subject of ptosis, and the contents can be summarised in the words of one of the contributors, 'everyone who describes the anatomy of the levator seems to give a slightly different description . . .' There must surely be only one true description of anatomy, which regrettably does not appear in the chapters on the subject. Each contributor's approach to the surgery of ptosis is based on his own concept of the anatomy and pathology and does not clarify the existing confusion.

There follow several chapters on trauma of the orbital region, all of which are personal accounts of cases treated. It would have been better if the chapters on 'Epiphora following cosmetic surgery' and 'Complications of dacryocystorhinostomy' followed consecutively. There is a lesson for some in the former chapter although the 'retro-ocular' and 'superclavicular' areas sounded strange.

The remaining presentations deal with lid tumours and their repair, entropion, the use of scleral grafts, fornix reconstruction, and the management of recurrent pterygia.

Without wishing to be unkind it must be said that unless illustrations speak for themselves they are better not included; the pity is that photography of poor quality detracts from an otherwise well produced volume.

The final round-table discussion makes interesting reading, particularly when dogmatism is challenged by reason. A. WERB

Vitamin A Deficiency and Xerophthalmia. WHO Technical Report Series No. 590. 1976. Pp. 88, figs. (4 in colour), tables. WHO, Geneva (Swfr8)

This valuable publication in paperback is the report of a joint WHO/USALD meeting, and would appear to cover all aspects of the problem. The introduction deals with definitions, significance, and prevalence. The second section covers the chemistry, sources, and metabolism of vitamin A, and this is followed by methods of assessment, ecology, a detailed account of prevalence, and treatment. Prevention is adequately covered. Valuable recommendations for research are added. There is a list of 86 references.

While this book would not have a great practical appeal to those practising in highly developed areas, it will be of inestimable value to those having to deal with the problem where it is rife. It is available at HM Stationery Office in London and many other cities in the United Kingdom. F. W. LAW