

Book reviews

Contact Lenses and Corneal Disease: A Programmed Course. A. R. GASSET. 1976. Pp. 401, figs., tables. Appleton-Century Crofts, New York (£17.55)

This paperback manual is in the style of a programmed course with each page divided into two columns, that on the left containing a series of simple statements, totalling 1245 in the book as a whole. Beneath each of the statements is a question relating to it and the answer is in the right-hand column opposite.

Many of the questions are of such an obvious nature, however, that they merely tend to irritate rather than inform the reader. This criticism apart, the sections on the use of the keratometer and fitting both hard and soft contact lenses form a clear, basic introduction to the practical aspects of the subject. The second half of the book is concerned with the therapeutic uses of contact lenses and corneal disease but, unlike contact lens fitting, the subject of this section does not in general lend itself to such a method of presentation. In addition, it suffers from a lack of adequate illustrations, those which are provided being of poor quality which contribute little to the text. The methods of treatment which are advised seem both accurate and up to date, although the wisdom of advocating the unqualified use of constant-wear soft lenses in severe dry eye states must be seriously questioned.

This book can be recommended to ophthalmologists who require an introduction to the basic aspects of contact lens fitting, but if they wish to take up the specialty seriously it would be essential to complement this initial outline of the subject with more extensive reading from established texts.

P. D. DAVIES

Surgery of the Eyelids and Lacrimal System. L. T. JONES and J. L. WOBIG. 1976. Pp. 241, 222 figs., 4 tables, bibliog. Alabama, Aesculapeus Publ. Co., Birmingham, Alabama (\$45)

Intended for ophthalmic plastic surgeons, this book summarises the views expressed over the years by Dr Lester T. Jones and his associates on the causes and management of disorders of the lids and lacrimal apparatus. The section on anatomy and physiology makes compulsive reading coming from such an established authority on the subject. The text is liberally illustrated, mostly with black-and-white photographs which vary considerably in quality.

Most British ophthalmologists will, I think, be surprised to see such prominence given to aponeurotic repair for the management of ptosis, particularly when levator resection is barely mentioned. The message of caution to the advocates of the tarsomullectomy operation is timely. In discussing the preoperative assessment of patients with epiphora the authors rely almost entirely on the use of dye tests, with only passing mention of dacryocystography and no reference to the more sophisticated investigations such as intubation and subtractive macrodacryocystography or scintillography which are now available.

In their preface the authors state that the book is not a complete work on the subject and presents only concepts with which they have had personal interest

and experience. While not agreeing with all the methods advocated, I am sure that all surgeons who operate in this specialised field will find much to provoke thought and, in addition, a great deal of useful and practical information.

R. A. N. WELHAM

International Symposium on Fluorescein Angiography, Ghent, 28 March-1 April 1976. Documenta Ophthalmologica Proceedings Series No. 9, Pp. 369, 360+3 coloured figs., and 38 tables, refs. W. Junk: The Hague (Dutch Glds. 180)

Most leading authorities on the diagnosis and treatment of retinal diseases other than retinal detachment due to retinal hole attended this international symposium on fluorescein angiography in Ghent and presented papers. The important feature of the meeting was the free discussion. Within seven months the proceedings together with the discussions in full have been published. To have done this within so short a period must evoke admiration for the editor, Dr de Laey, and the publishers. The book is fully illustrated and the discussions make lively reading. There are authoritative accounts of the instrumentation and technique of fluorescein angiography, and these are followed by contributions on the retina, choroidal circulation, choroidal disease, and diseases affecting the pigment epithelium. Many of the important advances during the last few years are reported. While some of the papers may not be totally original, it is very valuable for all workers interested in retinal disease to have them collected in a single volume. The opinions expressed in the discussions contain unpublished observations and are most valuable in that the impact of the papers on such an audience has been recorded. This book represents an important contribution to the published material on retinal diseases.

ALAN BIRD

Ocular Examination: Basis and Technique. 2nd ed. By A. H. KEENEY. 1976. Pp. 322, 200 figs., tables, refs. C. V. Mosby: St. Louis (£17.50)

The second edition of this volume maintains the high standards of its predecessor. The methods of ocular examination together with their accompanying instrumentation and techniques are described in detail. The book remains objective in its discussion and the advantages and disadvantages of the various procedures are evaluated. Nor does the discussion confine itself to a description of contemporary instruments. There are frequent references to the disease processes that form the subjects of examination and there is much useful clinical advice.

British ophthalmologists may find the opening chapter on equipping an examination room amusing for its counsel of excellence, but the subject is approached with good commonsense and logic. There are valuable chapters on the examination of the pupils and on the diagnosis and investigation of dyslexia. The book is likely to appeal not only to the postgraduate student anxious to acquaint himself with modern instruments and diagnostic techniques but also to the practising ophthalmologist wishing to keep up to date with recent technical advances.

T. J. FFYTCH