

Book reviews

on the retinal vessels and to observe the effect. Perhaps it is the frequent reminder, during routine ophthalmoscopy, of the ease of observation of the retinal vessels which continues to urge ophthalmologists to try to improve the technique and the interpretation of the results of ophthalmodynamometry and related procedures. In relation to the effort, however, the yield of information about the ocular circulation seems to be low, although it may be possible to make certain deductions about the state of the carotid and cerebral circulations. The duration of the effort to develop ophthalmodynamometry can be judged from the brief historical review in this book, which shows that work on the human eye can be traced back to the first decade of this century.

Early chapters in this book deal with the relevant anatomy (including the numerous variations in arterial origins and branchings), physiology, and hydrodynamics of ophthalmodynamometry, and there are some useful diagrams to help the reader through this part. There follows a section on the different techniques which have been described. The instruments themselves vary according to whether they raise the intraocular pressure by pressing on the eyeball or by exerting suction on it. Also, in some techniques, force is exerting on only a small part of the eyeball (for example, with Bailliart's ophthalmodynamometer), while in others (for example, Hager's so-called ophthalmodynamography) the force is transmitted to all the orbital contents. It is rightly stressed that one has to consider what is being measured. With the usual methods of ophthalmodynamometry it is the pressure in the ophthalmic artery, but with Hager's procedure it is probably the pressure in the internal carotid. A technique of dynamography of the temporal artery is also described.

The author makes clear that there are many sources of error and a number of problems in interpreting the results, and he discusses these matters fully. A great deal of factual material is presented. For example, there are 15 pages of graphs giving the relationships between pressures in the ophthalmic artery as determined by ophthalmodynamometry and brachial arterial pressures, and the corresponding relationships for pressures measured by ophthalmodynamography and in the temporal arteries. This mass of information is further complicated by the need to give systolic, mean, and diastolic pressures, and by the change in relationships according to the posture of the patient.

Dynamography differs from dynamometry in that it gives a recording of the form of the pulse wave and is applicable to the orbital contents or the temporal arteries. The recording of the pulse wave gives the opportunity for further analysis of haemodynamic events in terms of pulse volume, pulse duration, and the speed of rise and fall of the pulse wave. All these matters receive attention. Recent developments offering more hope for future advances are also mentioned; these include the use of ultrasound and the Doppler effect, and the combination of dynamometry with recordings of the visual evoked response.

On the whole the contents of this book amount to a careful and painstaking presentation of the known facts

of ophthalmodynamometry and related techniques, but one is left with a feeling of disappointment that it is not possible to demonstrate a greater contribution to practical clinical problems.

J. GLOSTER

Ocular Electrophysiology: A Clinical and Experimental Study of ERG, EOG, and VER. By J. BABEL, N. STANGOS, S. KOROL, and M. SPIRITUS. 1977. Pp. 172, 145 figs., 21 tables. Georg Thieme Verlag: Stuttgart (DM69)

The field of electrophysiology as applied to the eye has seen significant advances in recent years, and workers in this field are now familiar with the beautiful recording technique of these particular authors at the Geneva eye clinic. This book, which is translated from the French, is a clinical and experimental study of the electroretinogram, the electro-oculogram, and the visually evoked response based on work done over the past 10 years. The notable feature of the work is the development of the technique of averaging to produce these electrical responses. In particular, the form of the electroretinogram is portrayed very accurately, and the changes shown with disease will be of interest to the less specialised clinician.

N. R. GALLOWAY

Radiology of the Orbit. By GLYN A. S. LLOYD. 1975. Pp. 216, figs., refs. Saunders, London (£10)

This book represents one volume in a series on diagnostic radiology. It is a tribute to the author, who has compiled a unique experience in this specialised field as consultant radiologist to Moorfields Eye Hospital and the Royal National Throat, Nose, and Ear Hospitals in London. The material is largely from his personal files and includes a lifetime of experience in the diagnosis of orbital lesions.

The early chapters describe the methods of investigating the orbit by plain x-rays, tomography, contrast techniques, computerised scanning, and various forms of ultrasound. There follow chapters on vascular anomalies in the orbit, unilateral proptosis, tumours, and pseudotumours. A useful chapter is included on the paranasal sinus, and of particular interest to clinical ophthalmologists are the chapters on dacryocystography and localisation of intraocular foreign bodies.

The book is well produced, with illustrations of exceptional quality and a useful bibliography. It will prove valuable to ophthalmologists as well as neuroradiologists, for whom it was largely intended. It is unfortunate that the date of publication precluded any major consideration of computerised scanning.

M. D. SANDERS

New Developments in Ophthalmology. Documenta Ophthalmologica Proceedings Series, Vol. 7. Edited by A. F. DEUTMAN. 1976. Pp. 365, 244 figs, 35 tables, refs. Junk: The Hague (Dtch. Glds. 110)

This report of the symposium held to inaugurate the new eye institute of the University of Nijmegen has no particular theme except that it is concerned with new developments in ophthalmology. It must have been an

excellent symposium to attend, characterised by papers from eminent contributors on a wide variety of subjects. This ensures that all ophthalmic surgeons will find something to interest them but makes it more difficult to recommend the volume to any particular group. There are several papers on detachment of the retina and related subjects, several on the investigation and treatment of retinal disorders, and individual contribu-

tions on corneal disease, vitreous surgery, cataract surgery, and the excision of choroidal melanomas. Most of the work has been published elsewhere, and specialists in any particular topic will probably find little new, but the general ophthalmologist will find useful views on several important subjects. Few people will read every word, but most surgeons will find something of real value.

A. STANWORTH

Notes

Ophthalmic Microsurgery

A course in ophthalmic microsurgery will be held at Moorfields Eye Hospital (City Road branch) on 5-7 October. It will be conducted by the Department of Clinical Ophthalmology and is a practical course concerning the application of the operating microscope to common ophthalmic surgical procedures. Applications are invited from consultants, senior registrars, or those overseas holding equivalent positions. Previous experi-

ence with the operating microscope is not necessary, but ophthalmic surgical experience is essential.

The closing date for applications is 2 September. Application forms and further details may be obtained from Mrs J. F. Field, Microsurgical Course Secretary, Department of Clinical Ophthalmology, Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PD.

Conference on Atherosclerosis

Milan, 9-11 November 1977

An international conference on atherosclerosis, sponsored by the European Group for the Study of Atherosclerosis and the Italian Society for Atherosclerosis Research and organised by the Lorenzini Foundation of Milan, will take place in Milan on 9-11 November 1977. There will be the following sessions: (1) atherosclerosis and the heart; (2) atherosclerosis and the brain; (3) atherosclerosis and the peripheral circulation, and round tables on

primary and secondary prevention, new analogues of clofibrate, lipoprotein metabolism, platelet anti-aggregants, dietary prevention of atherosclerosis, mucopolysaccharides, phospholipids, and new anti-atherosclerotic agents. Requests for information should be sent to Fondazione G. Lorenzini, Via Montanapoleone 23, Milano, Italy.

International Workshop in Neuro-ophthalmology

Iowa City, 10-12 November

The topics at this meeting, sponsored by the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Iowa, will be: (1) Perimetry in neuro-ophthalmology (Frisén, Sweden). (2) Pupils (Thompson, Iowa City). (3) Disc swelling (Glaser, Miami). (4) Visual evoked responses (Glaser,

Miami). (5) Cerebellar control of eye movements (Daroff, Miami). (6) CT scanning in neuro-ophthalmology (Sanders, London). Further information from Dr H. Stanley Thompson, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242, USA.

United Kingdom Intraocular Implant Society

This society has recently been formed under the presidency of Mr Neil Dallas, of Bristol. The function of the society is the cultivation and promotion of intraocular implantation and consideration of matters of policy relating to

this discipline. Applications for membership should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Mr John Pearce, 2 Windsor Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 2BG.

European Contact Lens Society

Perpignan, 11 to 13 November

The European Contact Lens Society of Ophthalmologists Inc is sponsoring an international congress at which the subject for discussion will be 'Physiopathology

—Visual Functions and Contact Lenses'. Interested ophthalmologists are welcome. Details from Dr B. Lecaillon-Thibon, BP 3019, 66000 Perpignan, France.