

Book reviews

Current Concepts in Ophthalmology. Vol. 5. Edited by H. E. KAUFMAN and T. J. ZIMMERMAN. 1976. Pp. 297, 157 figs., tables, refs. C. V. Mosby: St. Louis (£28.05)

This book consists of 18 chapters, varying in length from 5 to 35 pages, written by members of the staff of the Department of Ophthalmology of the University of Florida and by three invited contributors from other centres in the United States. It is intended to convey what the authors think is most important in terms of newer developments in ophthalmology, and the contents obviously reflect the interests of the department from which the book emanates, with a strong accent on corneal disease, contact lenses, optics, and glaucoma, though there are chapters on vitrectomy, exudative senile macular degeneration, and axoplasmic transport in the visual system.

Many of the chapters are practical in approach, particularly those on herpetic keratitis, antiviral agents, the management of corneal graft complications, corneal storage and handling, and two chapters on vitrectomy, one of which is entitled vitrectomy for the anterior segment surgeon. The views expressed are essentially personal ones, but nevertheless valuable. It is a little disappointing that only 5½ pages are devoted to senile macular degeneration, and in contrast to the chapters on

anterior segment this chapter is largely derivative. The only other chapter dealing directly with the retina is entitled 'Retinal Stretch and Accommodation', and reports personal research by the author on induced obliquity of the retinal receptor cells during accommodation. This is an interesting observation, but in a book of this sort is perhaps dealt with at too great a length. Similarly, the 35 pages devoted to a detailed mathematical treatment of the optical effects of indentation procedures are an inappropriate choice for this book. Keratoconus is dealt with in great detail and also the use of bandage soft lenses and some of the defects which may arise in soft lenses during wear in a chapter headed 'Lensopathies'. The chapter on immune reactions in the eye is also a little disappointing, being limited to 6 pages; it is mainly a summary of basic immune reactions with a brief note on corneal allograft rejection.

In spite of these criticisms there is much of interest in the book, which reviews at some length and in some depth a number of growing points in ophthalmology. It will be of particular interest to those working on the anterior segment of the eye; apart from the chapter on retinal stretch and accommodation, those interested in the retina will find little new. The volume is fairly expensive, but will make a useful addition to the ophthalmologist's bookshelf.

W. S. FOULDS

Obituary

A. H. Levy, BA, MD, CM, FRCS, 1875–1977

Dr Aaron H. Levy, formerly consultant surgeon to Moorfields Eye Hospital, died on 31 March, at the age of 101. He was the subject of a congratulatory note when

he attained his 100th birthday (*British Journal of Ophthalmology*, 1975, 59, 607). He is survived by his son and daughter.

Notes

Conference in Chicago

The Alex E. Krill memorial conference of the Department of Ophthalmology of the University of Chicago will be held on 21 and 22 October 1977 at the Drake Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. The Krill memorial lecture will be delivered by Paul Henkind. Other guest speakers include Nicholas Douvas, Richard Green, Douglas Anderson,

Herbert Kaufman, and Gunter von Noorden. Additional lectures will be given by speakers from the University of Chicago. Further information from Frederick A. Mausolf, MD, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Chicago, 950 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637, USA.

Eye-Bank Association of America

The Eye-Bank Association of America will hold a scientific programme on Saturday 1 October 1977 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at the Sheraton-Dallas Hotel preceding the AAOO meeting. Papers relating to corneal

transplantation and eye bank techniques are solicited. Further details from R. D. Richards, MD, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Maryland Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, USA.