Book reviews

Clinical Studies in Ophthalmology: Strabismus and Amblyopia. Edited by Frank W. NEWELL. 1975. Pp. 324, figs, tables, refs. Acton, Massachusetts (\$20.00)

This volume consists of the most significant material published in the USA between 1965 and 1974 on the diagnosis and management of amblyopia and ocular muscle problems. From some 150 articles published in the *American Journal of Ophthalmology* which had dealt with these topics the editor has selected 47 which he believed to have the most lasting value and which reflected both the advances in ophthalmology during the past 10 years and the present state of opinion on these subjects.

Each of the 47 articles has been written by well known ophthalmologists of the USA who have special knowledge and experience in the subject with which they deal. Many of the articles have two or more authors. The subjects have been carefully selected so as to cover a wide spectrum and to maintain a balance between theory and practice. Care has been taken to include the pathophysiology of certain conditions associated with strabismus, non-surgical methods of treatment, and most varieties of eye muscle surgery. Most, but not all, of the articles have a list of references, and most of them are well illustrated. There is no index.

This is a useful and interesting volume which records the views and experiences of a cross-section of well known eye physicians and surgeons of the United States of America on the subject of strabismus and amblyopia.

T. KEITH LYLE

Retinas of Fishes: an Atlas. M. A. ALI and M. ANCTIL. 1976. Pp. 284, 364 figs, refs. Springer-Verlag, Berlin (DM146)

The authors have assembled light micrographs of the retina from about 100 families of fishes. Most are their

own work, supported by a considerable contribution from the work of others. A brief account of the family is given with each example, some notes on the retina, references to published work, and a note of the visual pigments and their absorbance maximum where this is known. Inevitably details which might with advantage have been included are lacking in some cases, but with such wide coverage much pruning was doubtless necessary.

As the authors point out, the retinal morphology varies widely among fishes, not only between families but in some cases between species. Variations commonly occur between regions in a single retina, for example, in bottom-living shallow water fishes, in which the ventral and dorsal retina are very different. Such retinal differences may be associated with adaptations of the eyes, in structure and in relation to the shape and habits of the fish as a whole. By making more of these functional adaptations the authors might have increased the value of their work.

The techniques of preparation vary among the families treated and between the various original sources, which makes for difficulties in comparisons. Different modes of use of the microscope—normal bright field, phase contrast, and differential interference contrast—also make comparison less easy than it might have been. It is unfortunate that most of the micrographs are from paraffin-embedded material, since the appearances from aldehyde and osmium fixed tissue embedded in plastic are directly comparable with those from electron microscopy, and include detail often distorted or lost in paraffin material.

The authors state in their preface that they aim to present a pool of information about fish retinas for laymen, students, and specialists of varied interests, and in particular to display retinas with special morphological features which might be of interest to persons working on the physiology or biochemistry of the eye. The index and extensive bibliography will certainly extend the value of the book to such workers.

N. A. LOCKET

Obituary

Lieut.-Colonel R. E. Wright, CIE, BA, MD, MCh, DPH

Robert Ernest Wright died on 22 December 1977 at the age of 93. Educated at Wesley College and Trinity College, Dublin, where he won almost every prize in medicine, Wright was especially pleased by his award of the large gold medal in natural science in 1905. A medical travelling prize enabled him to continue his studies in Vienna with Fuchs. He passed into the IMS and after a course in pathology, bacteriology, and tropical diseases under Sir D. Semple at Kasauli was posted to Northern Burma. In 1911 he became assistant superintendent of the Pasteur Institute of Southern India and

did valuable work on filariasis and its carriers. In 1913 he was acting professor of pathology at Madras. In 1914 he served in Mesopotamia but during the later years of the war was again in India producing vaccines and continuing his research. In 1919 he entered ophthalmology, serving for a year under Colonel Fitzpatrick before taking over from him as professor of ophthalmology and superintendent of the Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras, the oldest eye hospital in the Empire after Moorfields and Exeter.

At Madras Wright performed a vast amount of surgery,