

divided into 6 parts, entitled 'Instrumentation and pathology', 'Peripheral retinal diseases', 'Diabetic retinopathy', 'Macular diseases', 'Complications of photocoagulation therapy', and 'Advanced technical uses of photocoagulation'.

Most of these titles are self-explanatory, but the last conceals 17 contributions which include important material on anterior segment laser treatment, particularly for glaucoma, and on the treatment of vascular retinopathies and tumours.

The quality of the contributions is high, as might be expected of a group of internationally recognised experts, and though their contributions often overlap this is an advantage, giving depth and vitality to the subject and avoiding a rigid didactic presentation. By the nature of the conference the book cannot be a comprehensive guide to all aspects of fundus disease, but it gives a real insight into the current clinical practice in those areas where photocoagulation is employed coupled with an understanding of the physics of photocoagulation energy and of the ensuing pathology. These basic subjects are essential to an intelligent and safe use of photocoagulation, either by xenon arc or laser.

The editor is to be congratulated on a most useful contribution to current clinical practice. The book can be confidently recommended to all ophthalmologists working in this field, whether as pupils, practitioners, or masters.

DAVID W. HILL

Stereoscopic Atlas of Macular Diseases, Diagnosis and Treatment. By J. D. M. GASS. 1977. Pp. 411, figs., tables, refs. C. V. Mosby, St. Louis (Henry Kimpton, London) (£52)

The second edition of this atlas has made its appearance some 7 years after the first. The organisation of the chapters has been retained, but there has been added a final section on photocoagulation in the treatment of macular disease.

During the past 6 years there have been marked advances in the classification of diseases of the macula and many separate entities are now recognised, although their aetiology and pathogenesis often remain in doubt. No ophthalmologist, however, can afford to neglect the morbidity which is produced by diseases of the macula, particularly in the second half of life, and this volume charts this area in detail with the help of an abundance of illustrations. It is a monument of careful observation and thoughtful interpretation on the road to a deeper understanding and control of an affliction shared more widely as the longevity of the population increases.

STEPHEN MILLER

Handbook of Ophthalmologic Emergencies. 2nd edition. GEORGE M. GOMBOS. Pp. 291, figs., tables, refs. Henry Kimpton, London (£8.25)

The second edition of this handbook, like the first, provides a comprehensive account of the diagnosis and management of most emergencies likely to be encountered by an ophthalmologist and is directed mainly towards ophthalmologists in training. The book is excellently laid out for both reference and reading, with frequent

practical summaries on management. The section on ocular trauma is particularly good and bears the stamp of first-hand experience gained by the author during the six days' war in Israel. At the end of the book there is a section on ophthalmic radiology and neuro-ophthalmological emergencies. My only criticism is that the quality of the photographs does not match the excellent text.

J. H. RAMSAY

Manual der Tonographie für die Praxis. WOLFGANG LEYDHECKER. 1977. Pp. 115, figs., tables, refs. Springer-Verlag, Berlin (DM18.80)

This is essentially a practical handbook of tonography, and it is reviewed here as such without entering into any of the long-standing arguments about the clinical value of tonography and the relative merits of different tonographic tests. Such problems receive relatively brief consideration, especially towards the end of the book, and not unexpectedly the author puts forward his own opinions throughout the volume.

As a practical guide to the performance of tonography it is very good. It gives the right amount of elementary anatomy and physiology to introduce a technician to the method, and it goes into the theoretical basis of tonography in sufficient detail to interest the ophthalmologist. There are numerous photographs of two pieces of tonographic equipment which help to make clear how they should be used. The need to prepare the patient and the eyes carefully and adequately for tonography is described, and the importance of this preparation is properly emphasised. The correct procedure is described well and in detail and a lot of sound common-sense advice is given. Mistakes are relatively easy to make in tonography, but the common ones are described in words and pictures. The assessment of the tonographic tracing and the calculations therefore also receive attention.

If you feel that you need to do tonography then this small book will certainly be of value in showing how the test should be done. The style of writing is straightforward and the reading is not difficult for anyone with some knowledge of the German language. J. GLOSTER

Note

Ophthalmic microsurgery

Two courses in ophthalmic microsurgery will be held at Moorfields Eye Hospital (City Road branch) this year—the first on 7–9 June, the second on 25–27 October. They will be conducted by the Department of Clinical Ophthalmology and will be practical courses 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. *Applications for the June Course should be received by 29 May.* 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.