Book reviews

Advances in Ophthalmology, vol. 35. Edited by E. A. STREIFF, M. SAUTTER, and M. J. ROPER-HALL. Pp. 187, figs., tables, refs. Karger, Basle (DM132)

This latest edition in the well-known series 'Advances in Ophthalmology' comprises 7 articles on a variety of topics. Three are concerned with certain aspects of glaucoma. Jerndal and Svedbergh describe the gonioscopic changes in patients with exfoliation glaucoma and consider that the basic abnormality lies in a primary genetic goniodysgenesis with an accompanying vasculopathy of the iris. Tsukahara reports focal leakage of fluorescein from the disc capillaries in cases of glaucomatous cupping, although its cause remains obscure. And Tsukahara and co-workers correlate field defects with cup-disc ratios and fluorescein angiographic findings in glaucomatous optic atrophy. Capillary filling on the disc is grossly reduced in progressive cupping, and the pattern of filling and non-filling can be closely correlated with field defects. Capillary changes, however, were not found to facilitate the prediction of future disc damage or field loss. The heredity of the choroidal dystrophies is discussed by François with particular reference to Sorsby's pseudoinflammatory dystrophy, choroidal sclerosis, gyrate atrophy, and choroideremia.

The longest article is by Leuenberger on the functional morphology of the cornea. This is well illustrated by light and electron microscopy, and the physiology of corneal transparency and healing are discussed. Two short articles complete this edition. Demeler describes the value of fluorescein angiography in the management of iris tumours. Although the angiogram may not be diagnostic it can provide useful information on the growth of lesions, and examples are shown. Haase discusses optical penalisation by atropine in the treatment of amblyopia in squints and sets out guidelines for its use.

The editorial policy of mixing review articles with original papers is continued in this edition, and the specialised nature of many of the presentations, some of which are in French or German, means that this volume is unlikely to have universal appeal. But as part of an on-going series on ophthalmic topics it will have a valued place in any reference library. T. J. FFYTCH

Vitreoretinal Surgery. Edited by ALICE MCPHERSON. 1977. Pp. 455, figs., tables, refs. Kimpton, London (£39.60)

The most recent contribution to what is perhaps the youngest subspecialty in ophthalmology, this is the proceedings of an international symposium held in April 1975. There are many distinguished contributors and associate authors, though some distinguished names are absent. It is always a pity that it should take 2 years for

such an important volume to appear, though it should remain up to date for some years to come.

Sections are devoted to every aspect of vitreoretinal surgery, and there are really excellent and original contributions on vitreous structure, function, and pathology as well as on preoperative evaluation. Instrumentation, indications, techniques, and results have been described in detail elsewhere, but this book treats all of them fully and includes detailed discussion of the problems of management of the lens during vitrectomy. From the surgical aspect it concentrates on surgery of the vitreous and vitrectomy, and there is very little on vitreoretinal problems. In particular, there is only one contribution on the surgical treatment of massive vitreous retraction. It is most unfortunate that this should be considered in a section on so-called vitreous substitutes, since the evidence presented emphasises the inappropriateness of the concept of substitution of vitreous by liquid silicone, and emphasises the need for membrane elevation in the treatment of massive vitreous retraction. One other contribution condemns liquid silicone in the traditional fashion, but without presenting evidence for doing so.

All in all, this is an outstanding book, beautifully illustrated, which contributes significantly to present knowledge of vitreoretinal pathology and surgery.

J. D. SCOTT

Glaucoma Guidebook. By G. L. PORTNEY. 1977. Pp. 158, figs., tables, refs. Kimpton, London (£6.85)

This book is aimed at postgraduate students starting in ophthalmology and provides an adequate survey. It covers the various types of glaucoma and deals usefully and at length with the technique of projection perimetry. It also contains the nomograms for coefficient of outflow by tonography, and there is an amusingly illustrated section on the evaluation of cupping of the optic disc. It can be recommended to the people at whom it is aimed and is recommended as a stand-by in any department of ophthalmology, as it contains a comprehensive bibliography.

W. E. S. BAIN

Strabismus. 2nd edn. By ROBERT D. REINECKE and DAVID MILLER. 1977. Pp. 319, figs., tables. Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York (£10.50)

Ophthalmologists, like pigeons, can be trained by the repeated presentation of a question followed by a reward for the correct answer. Success breeds enthusiasm, more success, and reinforcement of existing knowledge.

Reinecke and Miller apply the educationalist B. F. Skinner's tenets to the teaching of 'debutante' ophthalmologists with great success. The book takes one from the simplest possible question to ones which demand answers precise and informed enough to test the more