experienced ophthalmologist. A wide range of questions relating to strabismus are asked, and the book has the added advantage of well-designed programmed texts that even by cheating (reading the answer before it is calculated) one still learns. Programmed texts may not appeal to everyone, but they are certainly a rapid way of acquiring a basic knowledge, and this book is no exception.  

D. TAYLOR


It is a pleasure to review this second edition with its improved type face and excellent diagrams. The whole subject of strabismus surgery is shown clearly, and the commentary gives adequate additional information. The new sections are concerned with superior oblique muscle operations, the Faden operation, adjustable sutures, and other special surgical techniques for special strabismus problems. These are all welcome but cannot be praised uniformly.

The temporal approach for superior oblique tenotomy seems to have little to recommend it over the direct, nasal route, and what is referred to as ‘recession’ of the superior oblique is described more accurately as a controlled or bridled tenotomy. More disappointing is to find that the anterior half antero-lateral advancement of the superior oblique is totally incorrectly designated as ‘sagittalization’ of the superior oblique insertion. In this operation the line of muscle action is moved further away from the sagittal plane towards the coronal plane. However, the procedure is of great value in correcting the torsional diplopia of bilateral fourth nerve pareses.

A useful description of the Faden operation (‘posterior fixation suture’ or ‘thread operation’) and some of its indications is given but the point is not made that care must be taken to avoid the long posterior ciliary vessels and nerves when operating on the horizontal recti. This is why it is important to detach these muscles when this technique is used. A good account of the method and advantages of the adjustable suture for inferior rectus tethering in thyroid myopathy is given. There is a useful, but partisan, bibliography with only 2 European references out of 69. Where surgeons’ names are recorded they should be spelled correctly—O’Connor and Schillinger have not been corrected from the first edition and Mühlendyck suffers here.

Criticisms notwithstanding, this is the best available text on strabismus surgery, and it is to be hoped that the third edition will continue to record the advances in techniques in this fascinating subject.  

PETER FELLS


This well-presented account of the proceedings of a congress held in July 1977 in Troy, New York, has appeared with staggering speed. Therein lies a large part of its value. For it is arguable that every contributed crumb is likely to be a titbit, but to be allowed an insight into current thinking on colour, however transitory, is a privilege to be valued and acknowledged. Notably absent among the 8 invited lectures is one on the physiology of colour vision. However, colour in industry receives good representation, and in the other papers there is some discussion of colour defects, colour appearance, and the role of colour in design, art, and architecture.  

R. A. WEALE


As with all multi-author volumes, there is wide variation between chapters, with some overlap. These chapters are arranged in anatomical order, beginning with drug action on ocular muscles, and going on to the conjunctival sac, corneal epithelium, stroma, and endothelium, with a discussion also on techniques of investigating the cornea (by Maurice). There follows chapters on aqueous formation and drainage, iris and ciliary body molecules, lens, vitreous, synaptic transmission in the retina, and vascular proliferation in the eye, and finally, a useful review of the ocular side effects of drugs (Bernstein).

Many of the contributors are basic scientists and much of the material represents experimental work in animals which may not be applicable to man. There is certainly a wealth of information, but much of it is not of immediate interest to clinicians, and one doubts if some of the more elementary anatomy and physiology is essential. The index is useful, and most chapters have a fairly extensive bibliography.  

S. CREWS

Arzneimittelnebenwirkungen am Auge. Edited by OTTO HOCKWIN and HANS-REINHARD KOCH. 1977. Pp. 441, figs., tables, refs. Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart (DM120)

This comprehensive treatise on the side effects of drugs used in the management of ocular disease fills a gap in ophthalmic literature. The authors preface their study of the individual therapeutic agents by a valuable discussion on the biochemistry and pharmacology of ophthalmic drugs in general. Thereafter each system from the lids and lacrimal apparatus to the oculomotor system is discussed in depth in relation to the drugs used in treatment.

The latter half of the book is concerned with the toxicology of ophthalmic medications, their carcinogenic and teratogenic properties, and with methods of investigation of drug side effects. This book will find its main value as a source of reference, although the general chapters are recommended for postgraduate reading. Many of the drugs are not in common use in the United Kingdom, but the list is comprehensive and includes all contemporary forms of therapy.