

Book reviews

The Pathogenesis of Nerve Damage in Glaucoma: Contributions of Fluorescein Angiography. By GEORGE L. SPAETH. 1977. Pp. 160, figs., tables, refs. Grune & Stratton, New York (£13.85)

The changes in the optic nerve head in glaucoma have usually been explained in terms of either a mechanical or a vascular hypothesis. According to the latter, raised intraocular pressure reduces blood flow through the optic nerve head and the changes which occur are to be regarded as due, at least in part, to ischaemia. Experimental work over the past 10 years has tended to support the vascular hypothesis of glaucomatous damage to the optic nerve, and during a similar period of time there have been great advances in the technique of fluorescein angiography. The practising clinician may well ask, therefore, whether fluorescein angiography will help him in the diagnosis and in the management of glaucoma, and as a matter of more academic interest he may want to know how far fluorescein angiography has advanced our understanding of the basic causes of this disease. All the basic information can be obtained from the journals, of course, but the papers are numerous and some of the results are, not unexpectedly, contradictory. In this book Dr George Spaeth has presented a review of much of the work on glaucoma using fluorescein angiography and other techniques of assessing the vascular circulation in the eye, with an understandable emphasis on his own painstaking and extensive studies. He has tried, from this mass of material, to extract useful answers to the sort of questions mentioned above.

With regard to the experimental approach he points out that many investigations have been concerned with acute transient elevations of intraocular pressure, which may have some bearing on acute closed-angle glaucoma but do not necessarily help to elucidate the causation of changes in chronic simple glaucoma. In general it is clear that fluorescein angiography reveals significant differences in the blood flow through the optic nerve head between patients with chronic simple glaucoma and normal subjects. There are, however, several patterns which can be recognised within the group of glaucoma patients, and this consideration leads Dr Spaeth to put forward a tentative classification into 4 types of glaucoma. In primary hyperbaric glaucoma neuronal damage is directly due to raised intraocular pressure. In primary ischaemic glaucoma the damage is due to ischaemia, which is not, however, related to the elevation of intraocular pressure. In secondary ischaemic glaucoma the elevation of intraocular pressure brings about ischaemia, which causes the damage. In the fourth type of glaucoma there is a mixture of these mechanisms. It is claimed that fluorescein angiography would help the clinician to discover the predominant mechanism of damage in the individual patient. Nevertheless, the conclusion reached is that it will not be practicable to use the current technique of fluorescein angiography on a large scale in the diagnosis and management of glaucoma.

Such is the scope of this book. It is an interesting,

important, and thoughtful review of the problem with a detailed analysis of numerous fluorescein angiograms and other investigations, and is recommended to all who have a particular interest in glaucoma. J. GLOSTER

Intraocular Tumors. By GHOLAM A. PEYMAN, DAVID J. APPLE, and DONALD R. SANDERS. 1977. Pp. 382, figs., tables, refs. Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York (£19.95)

The participants in a symposium on intraocular tumours held at the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary in Chicago recently have combined with other authorities on the subject to produce a valuable and up-to-date book dealing with all aspects of intraocular neoplasms. The editors have taken full advantage of the expert knowledge at their disposal, and all of the contributors have been lavish with the references at the end of each chapter. Apart from a single author from West Germany, the volume is entirely the work of individuals based in the United States.

The book is short enough to be read with advantage by advanced students and is sufficiently comprehensive to be used as a standard reference work. The prominence given recently to the need for improved diagnosis in intraocular malignant disease, particularly with reference to melanoma of the choroid and retinoblastoma, has been emphasised. Full consideration is given to clinical diagnostic methods, to specialised techniques such as fluorescein angiography and ultrasonography, and to immunological advances in tumour diagnosis and treatment.

The benefits to a patient with a malignant melanoma of the choroid consequent upon enucleation are to some ophthalmologists questionable, and a reasoned approach to this important problem is made. The necessity for distinguishing between primary and secondary choroidal malignancy is always present, and modern developments in diagnosis are objectively assessed. The initial diagnosis of retinoblastoma is of equal consequence, and here again the editors have assembled up-to-date information concerning this tumour. Particularly helpful chapters deal with recent advances in the study of retinoblastoma and with current concepts in its treatment.

The volume is one which should find a place in the libraries of postgraduate institutions and in the personal libraries of ophthalmologists specialising in retinal diseases. J. R. HUDSON

Advances in Ophthalmology. Vol. 36. Edited by M. J. ROPER-HALL and E. B. STREIFF. 1978. Pp. 254, figs., tables, refs. Karger, Basel (DM188)

The 36th edition of the series 'Advances in Ophthalmology' is a commemorative volume in honour of Professor E. B. Streiff. The book follows the traditional form of this series, with a number of contributions on a variety of subjects from European authors. In all there are 28 articles, of which 11 are in English, 11 are in

French (4 with short English summaries), and 6 are in German (2 with short English summaries). The scope of the papers is wide, with an agreeable mixture of clinical and scientific contributions; there are in addition several case reports and an article on ophthalmic history.

In a composite volume such as this it is difficult to single out any particular contribution for special mention, but the high quality of the illustrations throughout should be stressed. Professor Streiff's long association with Lausanne has stimulated a number of articles from Swiss authors, and English readers might be put off by this apparent parochialism, but the uniform standards of this popular series are maintained.

T. J. FFYTCHÉ

Insights from the Blind. By SELMA FRAIBERG. 1977. Pp. 297, figs., tables, refs. Souvenir Press, London (£5)

This book is the detailed investigation of a number of children who were born blind and who had no other disability. The development of grasping, standing, mobility, prehension, and speaking is recorded. It is apparent that it is important to organise an educational programme which is based on the principles of developing the blind child as an individual and making him recognise this individuality. The book will be of the greatest interest to those who have to work with blind children.

A. G. CROSS

Der Augenarzt. Vol. 5. Edited by KARL VELHAGEN. 1978. Pp. 893, figs., tables, refs. George Thieme, Leipzig (DDR248)

Volume 5 of 'Der Augenarzt' edited by Karl Velhagen takes the form of previous volumes in this series, with 6 contributions on a variety of topics. Each chapter is virtually a short textbook, examining the subject in depth and providing a comprehensive bibliography, so that the book is both a teaching manual and a source of reference.

The opening chapter discusses ocular trauma and its management and prevention. This is followed by a short illustrated lecture on the biomicroscopy of the peripheral retina. Professor Vodovozov discusses the technique and findings of ophthalmochromoscopy, a method of examination that has never received much interest in Britain. It is unfortunate that the fundus appearances in this type of investigation are displayed by diagrammatic paintings rather than photographs. There is a comprehensive treatise on radiotherapy of the eye and orbit, followed by a short section on ocular physiotherapy, which includes some unusual and exotic forms of treatment not readily available under the NHS. The final chapter is the longest and deals with disorders of ocular motility. It discusses the physiology of binocular vision together with disturbances of ocular position and motility and abnormalities of lid function.

Like its predecessors, this book will appeal to post-graduate and practising ophthalmologists, and if it were available in English translation the sections on trauma, radiotherapy, and ocular motility would be essential reading for those studying for diploma and fellowship examinations.

T. J. FFYTCHÉ

International Guide to Aids and Appliances for Blind and Visually Impaired Persons. 1977. American Foundation for the Blind Inc., 15 West 16th Street, New York, New York 10011 (\$3.00)

This is the second edition of a standard reference book on the management of severe visual defects. The first edition was called the *International Catalogue of Aids and Appliances for Blind and Visually Impaired Persons*. It is comprehensive but not complete and provides a general picture of the devices available. The guide has information about all Braille equipment, sound equipment like talking-book machines and tape recorders, clocks and watches for the visually handicapped, mobility aids, and calculators. There are also details about educational and occupational aids and about low-vision aids. Devices are described to help in cooking, measurement, music, handwriting, typewriting, and telephoning. Help with games, sports, and puzzles is also available. It is a most useful volume for the visually handicapped and those who work with them.

A. G. CROSS

Dialogues in Ophthalmology. Vol. 1. Diagnosis and Management of Open Angle Glaucoma. Edited by PAUL HENKIND. 1977. Pp. 58, 3 cassette tapes. Harper & Row, Hagerstown, Maryland (\$42.50)

Dialogues in Ophthalmology is a collection of 3 cassette tapes and an accompanying booklet. Both carry a discussion between the moderator, Paul Henkind, and 3 experts, on the diagnosis and management of open-angle glaucoma. The discussion is ably led by Dr Henkind, passing in a clear and logical manner from definition to diagnostic signs and then to the timing and type of treatment to consider in the management of the disease. This discussion, containing many practical points and pearls of wisdom, would be useful both for residents preparing for the Fellowship and for general ophthalmologists wanting to update their knowledge. I found it more convenient to listen to the discussion than to read the exact transcription. It might have been more useful to condense the information on the tapes for presentation in the booklet. If the points made could have been given references, many of them would have been lifted above the level of anecdote. This work deserves a wide public, though it is not necessarily an item to purchase for constant reference.

R. HITCHINGS

Discussions on Glaucoma. Proceedings of the 1975-76 Symposia on Open and Closed Angle Glaucoma sponsored by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness. Edited by PAUL R. LICHTER and DOUGLAS R. ANDERSON. 1977. Pp. 156, figs., tables. Grune and Stratton, London (£11.35)

This book is a report of two symposia sponsored by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness in the USA in 1975 and 1976. Each symposium takes the form of case presentations by one of the coauthors to a panel of specialists before an invited audience. Paul Lichter introduces the 12 cases of open angle, congenital, and secondary glaucoma, which constitute the subject of the