

**Lens Ageing and Development of Senile Cataracts.** Ed. O. HOCKWIN. Pp. 294. DM139. Karger: Basel. 1978.

This is one of a series (No. 12) of *Interdisciplinary Topics in Gerontology*. It runs to 294 pages, with 170 figures and 47 tables. The volume consists of 30 papers presented at a 'workshop' on the ageing of the lens held in Bonn in 1977.

The papers are diverse, largely biochemical, and almost exclusively report studies on animal lenses or on cell cultures derived from animal lens epithelium. As might be expected, most of them are concerned with the lens proteins, but the components of lens capsule, the morphology of lens epithelium, the water content, the cation distribution, and enzyme activity in relation to aging form the subject matter of one or more papers.

As a compilation of current work at the time of the workshop and on the direction of future research trends in this field the book must be of interest to all those working in lens chemistry. It is, however, unlikely to be of more than limited interest to general ophthalmic readers. The book is well printed and well indexed and should form a good up-to-date source of reference to those working in this field.

W. S. FOULDS

**Visual Impairment in the Schools.** By RANDALL K. HARLEY and G. ALLEN LAWRENCE. Pp. 153. \$10.75. Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1977.

The dust cover of this book states that 'between these covers one will find a succinct and easily understood guide . . .'. Unfortunately this is not true.

The book is divided into Part 1, 'The eye and its diseases', and Part 2, 'Education of low vision children'. There is an appendix and a glossary. Part 1 is unclear, inaccurate, and riddled with unexplained jargon. Even if one forgives the proof reader his failure to ensure that the numbers in the text refer to the correct diagrams, these are badly drawn, too complicated, with hand written labels sloping in all directions. Part 2 is in the main well written and informative. It starts with a good review of vision screening procedures in normal and low ability children; then follow chapters on the visual environment, optical aids, the educational implications of the commoner eye conditions, and a simply written chapter on visual and perceptual development.

There is a clear need for a book such as this for teachers and therapists. If the first half of the book had been as good as the second, this would have been it.

BARRY JONES

**Immunology of Uveitis and Ocular Tumors.** By DEVRON H. CHAR. Pp. 122. \$15.00. Grune and Stratton: New York. 1978.

This attractive text published in the series of 'Current Ophthalmology Monographs' is intended to help the ophthalmologist understand the immunological aspects of eye disease. The author is director of the ocular oncology unit at the Francis I Proctor Foundation Department of Ophthalmology at the University of San Francisco.

The first chapter describes the basic concepts of immunology—the immunoglobulins and their biological role, the complement system, macrophages and lymphocytes, antigen processing, and the immune response in a general way. Then follows a discussion of HLA antigens and eye disease, experimental models of uveitis in the laboratory and in man, the role of immunological testing in uveitis, and the use of cytotoxic drugs and of steroids in the treatment of uveitis. These chapters are well written, informative, and well referenced.

Just under half the text is concerned with immunology in relation to tumours of the eye, an aspect of ophthalmology with which the author has substantial experience. Attention is drawn to certain established facts—the occasional spontaneous regression of retinoblastoma and choroidal melanoma; that conjunctival and uveal melanoma may remain stationary for a long time before unequivocal clinical evidence of growth is apparent; the long interval that may occur after excision before there is evidence of metastatic disease; that a large proportion of apparently incompletely excised basal cell carcinomata of the eyelids do not recur; and that the presence of circulating malignant cells in cases of retinoblastoma at enucleation does not always indicate a bad prognosis. These observations may reflect immunological action in the host-tumour relationship. The final chapter considers the present role of immunotherapy and future prospects for immunological techniques in the differential diagnosis and treatment of patients with ocular tumours. There is a useful glossary of immunological terms.

This short well written monograph is strongly recommended.

P. A. MACFAUL

**Progress in Anterior Eye Segment: Research and Practice.** Documenta Ophthalmologica Proceedings Series. Vol. 18. Eds. O. Hockwin and W. B. Rathbun. Pp. 370. No price given. Junk: The Hague. 1979.

This volume is in honour of Professor John Edward Harris, of the University of Minnesota. The papers reflect his life-long interest in the metabolism of lens and cornea. There is a great deal of information for those who are particularly interested in the biochemical changes which occur with ageing of the lens and the formation of cataract. Two papers deal with the effect of ultraviolet light on the lens and factors affecting light transmission.

The papers dealing with the cornea include current concepts on corneal transparency and clinical papers on cystinosis and Fuchs's dystrophy. The volume is concluded with the surgical treatment of epithelial cysts in the anterior chamber.

R. F. FISHER

**Ocular Pathology.** 3rd edn. By C. H. GREER. Pp. 281. £13.50. Blackwell: Oxford. 1979.

Since its first appearance in 1963 Dr Greer's book has won a well-deserved place on the reading list of many practitioners of ophthalmology in this country and elsewhere, and this updated third edition will doubtless be welcomed by a new generation of students entering for the FRCS and DO examinations.