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 ageing 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.

Although the content is essentially as in the previous editions, there are few topics which do not show evidence of revision. Some sections, such as those dealing with immunity and allergic reactions, with fungal and chlamydial infections, with precancerous epidermal lesions, with corneal dystrophies, and with the vascular retinopathies, have been expanded slightly. Electron microscopy is introduced, albeit to a very limited extent, for the first time. The overall length of the book is nevertheless almost the same as that of the previous edition owing to pruning of obsolete material. Unfortunately, while some figures have been replaced, there are still too many inferior photomicrographs.

This is a reliable and lucid introduction to eye pathology which can be recommended to students with confidence.

A. GARNER

Praktische Glaskörperchirurgie. By JEAN HAUT and SYLVIE LIMON. Pp. 166. DM54. Enke: Stuttgart. 1978.

Vitreous surgery is advancing so rapidly that it is sometimes difficult to keep up with the new instrumentation and techniques of this fascinating branch of ophthalmology. 'Practical vitreous surgery' is a German translation of a book originally published in French. Unfortunately between the time of the initial text and the final translation many major advances have occurred, with the inevitable consequence that the book is sadly out of date. There is no reference to work after 1971, and thus all the revolutionary techniques of closed vitreous surgery are missing. Nevertheless this volume provides much useful and interesting information about basic vitreous physiology and pathology, and at the time of its original publication it provided a rational appraisal of contemporary surgical procedures concerning the vitreous, especially in the management of vitreous loss during cataract surgery. Ophthalmic surgeons without access to modern vitrectomy instruments will find the chapters on 'open sky' techniques valuable, but the book is unlikely to have a general popular appeal.

T. J. FFYTCH

Ophthalmology Study Guide for Students and Practitioners of Medicine. 3rd edn. Joint Committee on Medical Student Education. Pp. 196. No price given. American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology: Minnesota. 1978.

This guide to 'patient problem-areas' and 'important concepts of diagnosis and management in the field of eye care' is written to supplement the various standard primers of ophthalmology. Rather like a breviary, it selects from the established ophthalmology bibles (to which the student is throughout referred) aspects which need amplification and it gives general guidance to practice. It is well laid out, with lists of questions and a loose plate of micro-fiches (a sheet of miniature coloured transparencies).

The traditional English student might cavil at the rather hectoring approach, the prolixity, the polysyllables, the jargon, the sociological catch-phrases, and so on, but I am sure that the authors know the sort of

language to which their students respond best; and there are indeed many felicitous and aphorisms that lighten the ever-insistent 'problems' and 'situations'. Odd statements also sometimes take one aback. Thus on starting off with section 1 (headed 'Visual Acuity'), subsection 1 (headed 'Relevance'), macular degeneration is quoted as the first of the 'Blinding eye diseases which may be treated and vision restored'.

But these limitations should not detract from the central virtue of this book, which is to provide a new dimension to ophthalmology as it is gleaned from the standard textbook, like a template, filling in its gaps and ambiguities, highlighting, clarifying, and consolidating. It is an original approach, and many an eye doctor will be the wiser after reading it.

P. D. TREVOR-ROPER

Taschenbuch der Augenheilkunde. By H. J. KÜCHLE and H. BUSSE. Pp. 408. DM68. Verlag Hans Huber: Bern. 1978.

Handbooks of ophthalmology are always welcome, and when they succeed in condensing an exhaustive number of facts under one cover they are to be congratulated. This small compact volume (less than 400 pages) is comprehensive enough to serve as textbook for undergraduate and postgraduate students and also to provide a ready reference book for practising ophthalmologists. There are sections on basic physiology, pathogenesis, and treatment of common and uncommon ocular disorders, though surgical techniques are not discussed in detail. More important for those revising for examinations, there are lists and tables and a glossary of over 250 syndromes. Unfortunately there are very few illustrations, and many of the treatments have a strong Continental flavour, but these are minor criticisms of this splendid little book. If it were translated into English it would certainly find a place in most eye departments and consulting rooms as well in the pockets of postgraduate students.

T. J. FFYTCH

Intraocular Lenses. By RONALD A. SCHARCHAR. Pp. 133. \$16.75. Charles C Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1979.

If there has been, over the last 30 years, an ophthalmic surgical subject fraught with controversy, then the subject of this book must certainly be the one. This controversy has arisen largely because of the refusal or inability of those persons connected with its development to apply to its study the level of scientific critical assessment it required. So outstandingly encouraging were the results obtained in favourable cases that those that fell short of this attainment tended to be disregarded. As the failed cases became the responsibilities of other surgeons, so factions strongly for and against intraocular implants came into being.

Over the last 10 years responsible surgeons have made a vigorous effort to correct this disastrous state of affairs. Scientific methods have been applied to implant design, to surgical techniques, to case analysis, and to the study of complications and how they may be avoided. Useful progress has been made. This form of surgery now has