

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and the final translation many major advances have occurred, with the inevitable consequence that the book is sadly out of date.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. FFYTCHÉ

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 felicities 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. FFYTCHÉ

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