

'vegetative physiology'. Chapter 6 contains a useful account of the author's own work on the cornea and is an excellent guide to current thinking on the biophysical properties of this tissue, though one would have expected some mention of the techniques of specular microscopy.

To summarise: while this book provides a number of valuable insights, its emphasis is biophysical rather than physiological, and it is insufficiently comprehensive to be regarded as an adequate students' text. D. F. COLE

Genetics and Ophthalmology. GREGORY KEITH. Pp. 116. £9.00. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1978.

This concise, accurate, and easily readable book should be welcomed by ophthalmologists, particularly those in training, who will find it a useful guide to the many genetically determined disorders affecting the eye. The short descriptions of the various abnormalities and their modes of inheritance are supplemented by useful references and suggestions for further reading at the end of each chapter. The reader is assumed to have a basic knowledge of human genetics, and few of the many disorders are illustrated. This book must therefore be used in conjunction with a large textbook of ophthalmology or with original papers. But it is none the less an extremely useful addition to the residents' library.

BARRIE JAY

Alles über grünen Star. Fragen und Antworten für Kranke mit Glaukom. By WOLFGANG LEYDHECKER. Pp. 55. DM9.80. Georg Thieme Verlag: Stuttgart. 1978.

Professor Leydhecker has produced a useful handbook which answers various questions on glaucoma. The text is designed to be read by junior medical staff and patients alike and is well illustrated with diagrams and photographs. It is the sort of book that makes easy reading and is informative without oversimplification. If British patients begin to show the same interest in their disease as their counterparts in the United States this book may well perform a useful service in the management of this complicated disease.

T. J. FFYTCH

Do You Really Need Eye Surgery? 2nd edn. By WILLIAM H. HAVENER. Pp. 88. \$4.50. Charles C Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1977.

This booklet is designed to answer the layman's questions and fears about eye problems and in particular about proposed eye surgery. Such books are difficult to write—to be comprehensive without being corny, to be neither dull nor dramatic and, most of all, to give balanced advice, when the subject is beset with dotty folklore and misconceptions furthered by commercial interests or by excessively lauded and often damaging 'new' techniques. In fact the presentation is impeccable. The risks and costs of fancy new methods are set in their true perspective; the counsel is wise throughout. The patient who is intelligent enough to have recourse to this book will have the reward he deserves, while the others will go on

relying on cocktail chat, fashion, and journalistic forays until the damage is done.

P. D. TREVOR-ROPER

Symposium on Strabismus. Transactions of the New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology. By E. M. HELVESTON, A. JAMPOLSKY, P. KNAPP, K. W. MCNEER, M. M. PARKS, R. D. REINECKE, W. E. SCOTT, AND G. K. VON NOORDEN. Pp. 608, £38.25. Mosby: St. Louis. 1978.

This symposium is up to the usual high standard that we expect from the New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology. In addition to reviews of current concepts in amblyopia there are useful contributions on sensory testing, which has always been the non-dominant side of American strabismology. The more usual emphasis on surgical techniques is well represented here, with particular reference to mechanical and cicatricial causes of strabismus and their treatment. Basic surgical methods are discussed and also the newer procedures of adjustable sutures, and the 'Fadenoperation' is considered. Although most chapters are of less than 20 pages, Dr Jampolsky gains an increasing share of the total with articles of 8, 25, 29, and finally 134 pages. However, his last chapter, an interesting comparison of unequal visual inputs in animals treated as for strabismus in man, is thought-provoking, though discursive, and while not to be accepted uncritically, well worth reading.

The final 100 pages are devoted to round-table discussions and questions presented in their colloquial entirety. If ruthless but responsible editing is regarded as omitted, then I would urge that in future this section be omitted completely and cassettes of the tape-recorded discussion provided for those who insist on this form of verbose instruction.

PETER FELS

Advances in Ophthalmology. Vol. 37. Ophthalmic Microsurgery. Ed. M. J. ROPER-HALL, H. SAUTTER, and E. B. STREIFF. Pp. 228. DM118. S. Karger: Basel. 1978.

This book is a collection of papers presented at a microsurgical workshop held in Singapore by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Many specialities were represented, but by far the greatest contribution was from ophthalmologists.

The first part of the book will be of great use to a beginner in microsurgery. It has chapters and detailed discussions on the selection of a microscope and the various attachments that are now available (there is a notable lack of this information in the ophthalmic literature). The chapters span the use of simple microscopes for underdeveloped countries to the stereovideo microscope. There are chapters on instruments for microsurgery, the care of these instruments, and their uses, though sometimes one has to read the discussions to get the authors' views about ideal modifications to the microscope such as working distances. One section is devoted to ophthalmological microsurgery, which is fairly comprehensively covered, though vitreous surgery is not given much space. There are small chapters on the Kloti and Girard instruments and a useful chapter on