'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 outmoded, 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

surgery for postoperative astigmatism. Intraocular lenses are mentioned but not in any great detail.

The last part of the book is on otolaryngology, neurosurgery, and vascular and limb implantations. It is short and quite interesting to read.

The main value of this book is in the first part, where the basic principles of microsurgery are discussed in detail. The ophthalmic information available in the second part is all easily available elsewhere. It is a worthwhile addition to the library of a beginner in microsurgery and will also be of interest to the established microsurgeon.

BRUCE MATHALONE

1977 Year Book of Ophthalmology. Edited by WILLIAM F. HUGHES. Pp. 384. £17.75. YB Medical Publishers: London. 1977.

This 1977 volume has recently made its appearance and as usual compresses the important literature in ophthalmology over the year into a relatively small space, condensing the reports of new work in a precise form. The text opens with 45 questions addressed to the clinician, and if any reader has doubts about the value of the *Year Book* he has only to discipline himself to answer the 45 questions without reference to the text.

S. J. H. MILLER

Pseudophakos. By NORMAN S. JAFFE, MILES A. GALIN, HENRY HIRSCHMAN and HENRY M. CLAYMAN. Pp. 245. £32.20. Mosby: St. Louis. 1978.

A book on this still somewhat controversial subject has long been needed to serve as an authoritative guide to surgical and clinical practice both for those already involved in it and also for those inclined to take an interest in it, including postgraduate students in ophthalmology. This text fulfils its role excellently, providing a safe and sensible surgical outlook and covering the subject in all its aspects. Sixteen chapters cover theoretical aphakic and implant optics, history, implant chemistry, clinical guidelines, methods of estimating implant power, sterilisation, surgical techniques, complications, and results. All these subjects are generously illustrated with both monochrome drawings and photographs.

The authors have confined themselves to considering implants supported by the iris and/or the posterior lens capsule, to which their own experience has been confined. A chapter by Choyce has been included on anterior chamber lenses. This chapter differs significantly in clinical style from the remainder of the book, but the views expressed are of interest. No mention is made of the 'UGH' syndrome (uveitis, glaucoma, and hyphaema) which has appeared recently in the American literature.

This is a useful and much needed contribution to ophthalmic literature which can be warmly recommended to those interested in the subject. ARTHUR D. MCG. STEELE

Notes

Keeler award for clinical study

The Keeler award for clinical study was founded through the generosity of Keeler Holdings Ltd., by Mr Charles Keeler, who was at that time the chairman and managing director. Its object is to encourage consultant ophthalmologists, senior registrars about to take up consultant appointments, and any other applicants the trustees consider suitable, to visit other centres in the United Kingdom and abroad to gain experience of new techniques. In view of the increasing costs of travel and living expenses, the trustees have decided to create additional travelling fellowships of up to £2000 in any one year. Further information and application forms may be obtained from the Keeler Award, c/o Angus, Campbell & Co., Metropolis House, 39-45 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0JL.

Microsurgery course

The Department of Clinical Ophthalmology of the Institute of Ophthalmology will be conducting a course in ophthalmic microsurgery on 24-26 October 1979. It will be a practical course concerning common intraocular surgical procedures. The fee is £80.00 and the closing date for applications is 21 September 1979. Application forms and further details from Mrs P. M. Usher, Microsurgical Course Secretary, Department of Clinical Ophthalmology, Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PD. A further microsurgical course will be held in the spring of 1980.

Paediatric ophthalmology group

This interdisciplinary study group on paediatric ophthalmology was founded by Dr R. Mac Keith. It includes ophthalmologists, paediatricians, neurologists, psychologists, teachers, social workers, and others involved in the care of visually handicapped children. Its objectives are to further knowledge of the subject, exchange ideas, and stimulate interest in this field to the eventual benefit of children who are visually handicapped. The group meets twice a year—in the autumn at the Newcomen Centre, Guy's Hospital, when formal papers followed by discussion are presented, and early in the year, when visits are made to research units, special schools, or any department involved in the problems of paediatric ophthalmology. The present convener is Dr Neil Gordon, Booth Hall Children's Hospital, Blackley, Manchester, and the organisation of the group is supported by the Spastic Society.