

Proceedings of the Paul Cibis Club, 1979. (Eds.) EDWARD OKUN and GLEN PAUL JOHNSTON. Pp. 215. \$20.00. The Paul Cibis Club: St. Louis, Missouri. 1979.

To eavesdrop a conversation between enthusiasts, when those enthusiasts are expert in their field, is a stimulating experience. This report of the Paul Cibis Club is just such an opportunity, where the reader may glean pearls of information about a variety of topics in the surgical management of a number of difficult retinal problems.

The slant of this meeting is towards vitrectomy. The guest lecturer, Dr Stephen Ryan, who has to do much more than deliver an address ex cathedra, joins the cut and thrust of debate in many of the presentations after giving a valuable dissertation on massive periretinal proliferation, its pathology, and treatment by vitrectomy, with particular reference to posterior segment trauma.

The remainder of the contributions cover many different subjects; most are in the form of case reports with commentary, but some are concerned with points of technique. The topics discussed include the drainage of subretinal fluid under direct vision, the value of estimating carcinoembryonic antigen, the use of liquid silicone, its technique and indications, the management of postoperative haemorrhagic and serous choroidal detachment, glaucoma as a mode of presentation in retinal detachment, macular holes, and postoperative gas injection in failed detachment operations. The problems of diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment are also discussed, along with other specific topics which include the extraction of a fish hook from the posterior segment, the management of posterior dislocation of the lens in cataract surgery, and sympathetic uveitis following vitrectomy.

Workshop presentations are not carefully weighed didactic statements. This would be to lose the stimulus of the occasion. So despite the care of the contributors to be fair to viewpoints at variance with their own the critic may at times find, as he would expect, that the presentations are bounded by the views of this particular school. But it is a good school.

The book is a good one which will encourage, stimulate, and refresh the mind of the retinal surgeon. who will also find useful practical tips in dealing with difficult circumstances. The general ophthalmologist will gain insight into the current 'state of the art', which will help immensely in deciding when to pass a case to the expert.

D. W. HILL

Les Syndromes Opto-Chiasmiques. By P. Bregeat. Pp. 196. No price given. Masson: Paris. 1979.

This book by one of the doyens of European neuro-ophthalmology provides a review of the author's extensive experience, with support from his collaborators in neuroradiology and neurosurgery. Written in French, it is well illustrated with diagrams, visual fields, x-rays, and a number of CT scans. Contents include a brief review of the anatomy, followed by sections on the clinical and radiological features of the varied lesions producing parasellar lesions. It is sad, however, to see the Edinger-Westphal nucleus still represented as two

widely separated nuclei, so long after Warwick's work, and the diagrams and clinical implications of the junctional scotoma are not fully emphasised. Most classical subjects are discussed, but the endocrinological side could be elaborated, and the omission of septo-optic dysplasia merits rectification in a future edition. The bibliography is limited largely to the French literature, references are not related to the text, and most readers will not benefit from a number of references to an unpublished symposium. This well produced, small, and handy book provides a good general view of the chiasmal region.

M. D. SANDERS

Ophthalmology: Principles and Concepts. 4th edn. By F. W. NEWELL. Pp. 638. £18.75. C. V. Mosby: London. 1979.

Earlier editions of this book have all been reviewed in the *BJO* in glowing terms. Despite advances in technology over the last 10 years this text keeps up to date and well in touch with new methods and their findings. Since the last edition sections have been added on phagocytosis and renewal photoreceptor outer segment discs, the aldose-reductase pathway of galactose cataract formation, improved cytological methods, photocoagulation, microsurgery, intraocular lenses, vitrectomy, enzyme assay of fibroblast cell culture, tear film abnormalities, computed tomography, ultrasonography, corneal endothelial function, visual evoked potential, glaucoma management, mechanisms of amblyopia, soft contact lenses, and new antibiotics. As the author so rightly states, 'These and other changes have made ophthalmology far different from what it was a generation ago'.

The layout is in 4 parts: basic mechanisms, history taking and examination of the eye, diseases and injuries of the eye, and systemic diseases and the eye. To meet the needs of nonophthalmologists diseases are discussed without emphasis on refraction, optics, biomicroscopy, and related areas. Discussion of systemic disorders emphasises the basic abnormality of the primary disease process rather than involvement of a particular portion of the eye. The book covers 627 pages, with an excellent glossary and index. Many of the illustrations are photographs of a high standard, and the text itself is readable and compressed without being disjointed. At the end of each chapter there is a bibliography which picks out the important contributions to the subject discussed. The fourth section on systemic diseases and the eye is particularly well designed, highlighting the close association of ophthalmology with systemic disease and written in such a way as to inform not only ophthalmologists but also general physicians.

S. J. H. MILLER

Behçet's Syndrome. Eds. T. LEHNER and C. G. BARNES. Pp. 323. £16.40. Academic Press: London. 1979.

This book results from a symposium held at the Royal Society of Medicine, London, in February 1979 and organised by Professor T. Lehner (professor of oral immunology, Guy's Hospital) and Dr C. G. Barnes (department of rheumatology, London Hospital).