Book reviews

Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery for the General Ophthalmologist. By MURRAY A. MELTZER. Pp. 84. \$20.75. Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore, Maryland. 1979.

This book is written for the general ophthalmologist, as its title suggests. It aims to provide him with a practical guide to basic ophthalmic plastic surgical procedures and in no way attempts to cover the subject comprehensively. The procedures are well described and illustrated with good line diagrams. Almost the whole of the first half of the book is devoted to anatomy and basic principles. Too little space is left for an adequate discussion of the indications and contraindications for specific operations and of the management of complications. This particularly affects the chapter on blepharoptosis. It would, however, be impossible to cover all aspects of the subject in a book of this size, and the author is to be congratulated on producing such a complete guide without increasing the text. It should be of value, as intended, to general ophthalmologists who want a summary of some of the simple practical eyelid procedures which they are frequently required to do.

J. R. O. COLLIN

Documenta Ophthalmologica Proceedings. Electrodiagnosis, Toxic Agents, and Vision. 15th I.S.C.E.V. Symposium, Ghent, 1977. Vol. 15. Ed. J. François and A. De Rouck. Pp. 343. \$56.00. Junk: The Hague. 1978.

This book is a compilation of the proceedings of the 15th meeting of the International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology. The name of the society has been changed recently to allow it to embrace work on cortical evoked potentials and it now bears the initial letters ISCEV. Although these papers were actually given in 1977, the book contains some useful information for both clinicians and laboratory workers.

The first part is concerned with the effect of drugs on the electrical responses, and there is some much needed information on the effect of anaesthetics. A rather horrifying report of a case of chloroquine ocular toxicity in a patient on an antimalarial dosage is backed up by others on the progressive nature of chloroquine damage even after cessation of treatment. Further papers were presented on the details of the waveform of the ERG, EOG, and VER. In particular a clear-cut comparison is given between the VER produced by square wave and sinusoidal checkerboard stimuli. On a more clinical level there is a large series of results demonstrating the place of the VER in the assessment of patients with cataracts, and for those interested in questions of health and safety there is a well documented measurement of the retinal damage threshold to visible light. At the end of the book there are some short papers on instrumentation, including a description of the now well known gold-coated Mylar electrode for use in electroretinography.

In the past the proceedings of ISCEV have probably not been read widely enough by clinical ophthalmologists and indeed have been difficult to obtain. The papers in Volume 15 deserve to attract some interest and will provide a useful reference source.

N. R. GALLOWAY

Perinatal Retinal Haemorrhages: Morphology, Aetiology and Significance. BY B. VON BARSEWISCH. Pp. 184. DM58. Springer-Verlag: Berlin. 1979.

The fascination for the interesting subject of this book that the author has felt for some years comes over clearly in his carefully prepared monograph. After describing the morphology of these haemorrhages, with clinicopathological correlation, he discusses the aetiological factors in some detail and then turns his attention to the significance of the findings. Evidence is produced in the form of excellent serial fundus photographs. Retinal haemorrhages occur in about one-third of all deliveries, being more frequent when the second stage of labour has been complicated, and they are not influenced by maturity, sex, parity, or blood coagulation disorders. At the macula the commonest haemorrhage is submembranaceous (under the internal limiting membrane), and this almost invariably leaves no functional sequelae and is not necessarily associated with intracerebral haemorrhage.

Although many readers may regard this as an obscure subject, the very frequency of perinatal retinal haemorrhages and the thorough way in which this monograph has been prepared will certainly lead to this book's taking its place in the established ophthalmic literature.

DAVID TAYLOR

Chronic Progressive External Ophthalmoplegia. By L. A. K. BASTIAENSEN. Pp. 385. No price given. Stafleu's Scientific Publishing Company: Leyden. 1978.

This 400-page book provides a modern review of a condition ophthalmologists will rarely see but in which their observations historically have been, and clinically continue to be, of immense value. It was first described by an ophthalmologist, von Graefe, and attributed to a muscle disorder by two neurologists, Kiloh and Nevin, but it remained for Dr Kearns of the Mayo Clinic to indicate the protean manifestations with pigmentary retinopathy and cardiac conduction defects. Over the last decade histologists and electron microscopists have established subtle abnormalities in mitochondria, and the breadth of the clinical spectrum has been extended. This compilation is orientated around the author's work but contains an excellent bibliography and review of a wide range of conditions that may produce ophthalmoplegia.

M. D. SANDERS