

amply illustrated. For those who do not wish to become involved with the complicated and delicate manoeuvres within the vitreous cavity there is an excellent section on the use of vitrectomy instruments in anterior segment disorders. Of particular interest is the treatment of pupillary membranes and the management of neovascular glaucoma by a filtration procedure over the pars plana.

This is one of the best of many books on vitrectomy that have recently appeared on the market and is strongly recommended.

J. J. KANSKI

**Real Time Ophthalmic Ultrasonography.** By S. N. HASSANI. Pp. 214. DM69. Springer-Verlag: Berlin. 1978.

This book describes contact B-scanning of the eye and orbit with the Bronson Turner B-scan unit and is written by 2 radiologists. One of the authors' presumed intentions was to orientate the nonophthalmically trained examiner to ocular anatomy, pathology, and therapy. Unfortunately much of the book reads like a student's hectic jottings from some out-of-date ophthalmic text, and ophthalmologists will wince at the wealth of confusing statements, inaccuracies, and frank errors. A few examples might be cited: the cross-sectional diagram of the eye implies that the vitreous is richly vascularised; another diagram labels the posterior lens capsule 'anterior capsule' and presents a novel interpretation of the site and configuration of the ciliary body; there is no description of the ora serrata, which, to judge by the diagrams, enjoys an enormously diverse anatomical position; the optic nerve is described as having an S-shaped curve. Furthermore, little priority is given to those aspects of ophthalmology likely to be encountered in an ultrasonic department. In the section on systemic hypertension, for example, the retinopathy is described but there is no mention of the commonest ultrasonic presentation, that is, vitreous haemorrhage and incomplete posterior vitreous detachment arising from retinal branch vein occlusion complicated by neovascularisation. This curious disorientation is most evident in the glossary of ophthalmic terms at the end of the book. For some reason, 'anomalous retinal correspondence', 'cyanosis retinae', 'snow blindness', and 'Hallerman-Streiff syndrome' are considered worthy of definition, but there is no mention (anywhere) of the 'vitreous base', 'giant retinal tear', or 'massive periretinal proliferation'.

There are approximately 400 B-scan photographs covering a wide range of pathology. Again, there is a curious imbalance in emphasis—there is no clear illustration of a 'collar stud' choroidal melanoma, a diabetic traction detachment, or an optic nerve tumour. Yet there are dozens of pictures of normal extraocular muscles and cataractous lenses, 9 examples of asteroid hyalosis, and, unbelievably, 5 pictures of so-called 'reflection artefacts' arising from faulty camera technique. The labelling of B-scans also leaves much to be desired—sheets of echoes in the posterior vitreous are labelled 'macular oedema', 'retinitis', and 'diabetic retinopathy', and many archetypical ultrasonic findings are confused—for example, cyclitic membrane versus posterior hyaloid

membrane and 'organised' haemorrhage versus retrohyaloid debris. Occasionally the figure legends indicate one disorder and the labelling on the B-scan indicates another.

Even the introductory chapter on the 'Principles of ultrasonography' contains many incorrect statements, highly confusing diagrams, and spelling mistakes.

In the foreword close co-operation between the ophthalmologist and the ultrasonographer/radiologist is recommended. Sadly, this book demonstrates many of the pitfalls which arise when such liaison is lacking. In view of the recent flurry of books on ophthalmic ultrasound, it is difficult to imagine any ophthalmologist, radiologist, or ultrasonographer who might benefit from reading this one.

M. RESTORI  
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**A Guide to Medical Photography.** Ed. PETER HANSELL. Pp. 163. £17.95. MTP Press: Lancaster. 1979.

Peter Hansell has edited the work of eight other authors from various countries and contributed 1 chapter himself to complete this attractive book on medical photography, a subject about which there are very few other textbooks. It is a nicely produced and very well illustrated volume, which will serve to show the ophthalmologist what is possible in medical photography and so may help him in preparing material for teaching and publication.

There is just 1 chapter on ophthalmic photography, by Phillip Hendrickson of Alabama, USA, in which he has to encompass the entire scope of his subject in just 10 pages. An ophthalmologist wishing to apply photography to clinical or research purposes, such as in the fields of fluorescein angiography and slit-image photography, will not find sufficient information to allow him to become proficient in this work. But a reasonable number of references are provided for those willing to progress beyond the scope of this book.

NICHOLAS PHELPS BROWN

**A Colour Atlas of Ocular Tumours.** By MICHAEL A. BEDFORD. Pp. 78. £12.00. Wolfe Medical Publications: London. 1979.

This is an excellent book which provides comprehensive photographic recordings with accompanying short factual accounts of the various benign and malignant tumours which involve the skin of the eyelids, the conjunctiva, the uvea (iris, ciliary body, and choroid), and the retina.

In any medical textbook the question of illustrations is a vexed one because it involves inevitably a compromise between providing a comprehensive photographic account of the various diseases, which frequently must be in colour to be effective, and providing a book which is economically viable. Sometimes illustrations may be reduced to a minimum, so that a factual text is achieved at a reasonable cost. As the late Sir Stewart Duke-Elder said, 'Live pictures should be available in the clinic'. This is appropriate when the book is confined largely to