There are relatively few matters with which one might take issue. In the first chapter, however, no mention is made of dynamic events in the vitreous, and the anatomical basis of the ‘vitreous base’ is treated unduly cursorily. Dr Michel’s preference for light projection over the swinging flash-light test as an index of likely vision in an eye with dense vitreous opacities does not accord with our experience. Similarly, the choice of the inferonasal quadrant for purposeful retinotomy to allow internal drainage of sub-retinal fluid is open to debate. The illustrations are generally excellent, though the drawings of traction retinal detachments tend to depict the elevated retina as a partially deflated balloon rather than a structure striving to retain apposition with the pigment epithelium against all the odds.

Vitreous Surgery is destined to attain and maintain pride of place in the surgical section of ophthalmic libraries. It is highly recommended to all, though its price may deter students and those not primarily concerned with ocular surgery from a personal purchase.


Fjodorow’s original book on intraocular lenses was first published in 1977 and has now been translated into German by Rene Georg Frey. The author reviews the early history and development of implants and discusses the mathematical principles and optics of artificial lenses. The surgical techniques of implantation in use at the time of writing are described in detail and illustrated by line drawings and photographs. There are chapters on postoperative management, results, and complications.

At the time of its publication in 1977 this pleasantly written volume was almost out of date, so rapid were the developments in intraocular lens implantation, and indeed the most recent references in the text are as long ago as 1973. Sadly, therefore, all the major recent advances in this expanding field receive no mention, and the book has limited value as a teaching manual. Its importance lies, however, in the fact that it represents a Russian view on lens implantation, and as such it merits a place in any comprehensive collection of works on the history and development of this form of anterior segment surgery.


The 42nd volume of this well-known series follows the same form as many of its predecessors with an in-depth presentation of 3 contemporary but unrelated topics.

Demeler has written a short and beautifully illustrated article on fluorescein angiography in iris and ciliary body tumours. He stresses the value of this test as much in follow-up studies as in the diagnosis of these lesions, and from examination of 182 patients he feels that angiography can detect those tumours which should be regarded as definitely malignant.

Schepens, Englert, and Leuenberger have contributed a chapter on the effects of limbal doses of argon laser on ocular tissues and present the histological and pathological findings in rabbits and ‘minipigs.’ The results are similar to those of other workers and suggest that the main therapeutic advantage of argon laser over other forms of photoacogulation is its ability to produce small, easily controlled, and localised burns in the pigment epithelium.

These 2 articles, the latter in French, comprise one-third of the book. The remaining two-thirds consists of an extensive discussion on anterior chamber implants by Bürki. The history of these implants is traced and the optics and mathematical principles are demonstrated by means of case reports as illustrations. There is a heavy emphasis on these mathematical aspects, with particular reference to the Binkhorst lens. The article, which is in German, is supplemented by an extensive bibliography.

Yet again the reviewer is forced to criticise this volume with the same criticisms that have been applied to previous similar volumes in this series. Three articles are presented, unconnected in content, and in 3 separate languages. On this occasion without even English translations—a situation to tax the linguistic powers of most British ophthalmologists. The book is too specialised in its choice of articles to attract the general ophthalmologist and postgraduate, and too diverse in its content to appeal to the ophthalmologist with a special interest. For whom then is this volume intended? The question remains: presumably the editors and publishers know the answer.


This book is written by 2 ophthalmologists working in the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, mainly recounting their personal experiences. Its chapters include sections on corneal erosion, filamentary keratitis, fine and coarse punctate keratitis, herpes virus, and the dry eye syndrome as well as introductory sections on diagnostic techniques, corneal anatomy, and healing of the corneal epithelium. The monograph is usefully referenced and well illustrated. It reflects the authors’ interest in surface disorders of the cornea, but as a result, where a condition is clearly more protean in its manifestations, one sometimes feels that the presentation is too heavy, rather as if one were presented with John the Baptist’s head when one had hoped to see him intact. The decision to present warts and molluscum contagiosum under ‘fine punctate keratitis’ and adenosirus, chlamydia, and Thygeson’s keratitis under ‘coarse punctate keratitis’ is somewhat arbitrary and diminishes the general usefulness of this classification in the differential diagnosis of punctate keratitis.

The authors wish to promote the use of their replica technique in the diagnosis and treatment of superficial keratitis. In this the dried anaesthetised surface of the cornea is coated with collodion solution and the membrane produced is stripped off. The surface defect heals in 2 to 4 days. Replicas of corneal erosion, the healing epithelium, corneal filaments, and corneal epithelial cells affected by herpes simplex virus, adenovirus, and Thygeson’s keratitis are presented among others. They are not all contributory. Many ophthalmologists may baulk at using the replica technique as a way to debride the cornea in corneal erosion, filamentary keratitis, and dendritic ulcer, though it clearly is of value as a clinical or experimental research tool.