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 subretinal 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, and 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At the time of its publication in 1977 this pleasantly written volume was almost out of date, so rapid were the developments in intraocular lens implantation, and indeed the most recent references in the text are as long ago as 1973.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.


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 adenovirus, 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.