complications. Each section of ophthalmology has been given a separate chapter and a separate author, so that there is some loss of continuity. Most chapters, however, are easy to read and are neatly and helpfully illustrated.

The difficulty about this book is that it is almost impossible to talk about complications without giving a complete description of the surgical procedure under discussion, so that one tends to end up with a mammoth book on surgical technique. Some authors assume that the techniques they are discussing are performed to a set standard which will be recognised and omit the description of the basic procedure, confining themselves to the management of the complications. Sophisticated surgeons would have no difficulty in managing this arrangement, but a surgeon in sore need of information may well find that some vital link had been omitted.

The other surprising aspect of the text is that it includes not only interesting and helpful discussions about the frontiers of ophthalmic surgery (vitrectomy, implants, etc.) but also surgical procedures which for most of us have been relegated to ancient history—for example, Elliott's trephination and iridenclesis. It is this sort of imbalance which unsettles a reader who is looking for modern approaches to surgical problems rather than a survey of all that might be possible.

A book of this sort is always interesting to those who are keen on surgical technique, but it will probably have a limited readership among those studying for higher examinations.

ARTHUR D. MCG. STEELE

Current Topics in Eye Research. Vol. 2. Eds. JOSÉ A. ZADUNAISKY and HUGH DAVSON. Pp. 308. £24.80. Academic Press: London. 1980.

This second volume is on topics associated with the retina. The first chapter deals with excitation and adaptation of the retina; the author discusses several hypotheses of transduction and gives a detailed account of the properties of different types of retinal cells. Cyclic nucleotide metabolism is covered in the second chapter, and the importance of resolving the action of cyclic guanosine phosphate is stressed. In the next chapter the role of the pigments melanin and lipofuscin are extensively discussed. This is followed by the pathophysiology of the vasculature of the optic disc and choroid. Some interesting data on the magnitude of choroidal blood flow are given. The final chapter deals with autoimmunity and the retina. A detailed account of the various types of tissue specific antigens present in the retina is given, and also the part that uveoretinal autoimmunity may play in human disease is discussed. An interesting example of the discussion is the suggestion that sympathetic ophthalmia may be possibly induced in some way by retinal antigens.

R. F. FISHER

Intraocular Lens Implants in Children. By DAVID A. HILES. Pp. 275. £13.20. Academic Press: London. 1980.

Few ophthalmologists have much experience of lens implantation in children, and many who approve of lens implantation in adults strongly disprove of its use in

children. Nevertheless, there has been little advance in the prevention of amblyopia in children with unilateral cataract. Contact lenses have proved disappointing and often unmanageable in children under 10 years, and if intraocular lens implantation is still experimental it deserves a fair trial.

On the whole the paediatric eye tolerates an IOL well, and if one considers traumatic aphakia and lens insertion in an older child, either iris clip or anterior chamber, the results in capable hands are promising. Dr Hiles has gathered material from a symposium held in Los Angeles in April 1979 and has called on those with most experience in this field of surgery, namely, Cornelius Binkhorst, D. P. Choyce, and S. N. Federov. He himself has written a detailed chapter on indications, techniques, and complications, which is both thorough and well presented.

The book may have a somewhat limited appeal, but for those interested in the visual rehabilitation of children with traumatic or unilateral cataract it is well worth careful study.

NEIL L. DALLAS

Ophthalmic Nursing: Its Practice and Management. By F. C. E. ROOKE, P. J. ROTHWELL, D. F. WOODHOUSE. Pp. 242. £4.95. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1980.

In reviewing the contents of this book I find it difficult to envisage the role of the nurses for whom it was written. The subject matter is wide ranging and presented in a readable manner. It is a useful addition to a library and as a general reference book for nurses working in an eye unit of a general hospital or in an industrial work setting, where the full range of ophthalmic services are not necessarily provided and where there is a lack of ophthalmic trained nurses to advise on the management of patients and the practice of specialist nursing skills.

M. D. TICKNER

Guidelines for Programmes for the Prevention of Blindness. Pp. 47. Sw.fr.10. WHO: Geneva. 1979.

This short volume sets out the goals and strategies to be achieved in preventing blindness in all parts of the world. It emphasises the importance of eliminating avoidable blindness and the importance of giving priority to the worst affected communities. A national policy is necessary for the prevention of blindness, and all resources must be employed. Primary, secondary, and tertiary eye care must be used, and the importance of teaching ophthalmology in the undergraduate medical student syllabus is emphasised. It is important to organise programmes for treating specific diseases such as trachoma, nutritional blindness, onchocerciasis, and cataract.

Members of the population must be involved in the implementation of antiblindness programmes, and it is important that primary health workers should take part. Trained, full-time ophthalmic assistants may be useful where there is a shortage of ophthalmologists. Budgetary provisions for prevention of blindness must receive consideration, and evaluation of the effects of prevention of blindness must always be undertaken.

A. G. CROSS