

Book reviews

Manual of Refraction. 3rd edn. By Albert E. Sloane and George E. Garcia. Pp. 353. \$15.00. Little, Brown: Boston, Mass. 1979.

The manual is based on a refraction course and the editors intend it as a simple practical handbook for students, orthoptists, technical assistants, and practitioners coming new to the subject. It contains also much information and guidance for experienced refractionists and for teachers of refraction.

There are 7 new chapters. Professor Sloane has included all his own chapters from the 2nd (1970) edition and added one. Professor Garcia has added 2 chapters and there are 8 other authors. The refractive conditions are described in simple terms with the minimum of theory, and precise instruction on objective and subjective techniques follows. Subjective testing where retinoscopy is unsatisfactory is considered in detail. The additional chapters are on low-vision examination and aids, keratometry, contact lenses, heterophoria, automated clinical refraction, methods of determining the power of intraocular lens implants, and ophthalmic lenses. A new chapter by Professor Sloane, 'Pearls learnt by experience,' fully justifies its title. The discussion of 22 cases individually (a chapter from the 2nd edition) deals with many points of difficulty. Professor Guyton in his chapter on automated refraction describes 3 objective and 2 subjective systems. He discusses their accuracy and their place in the eye clinic. He mentions their increasing use for routine medical checks where there are large numbers of patients.

Two oversights in the text might be mentioned. On p. 186 phospholine iodide is stated not to cause iris cysts and on p. 214 in a test for the near point of convergence (line 25) the fixation object is said to be placed at 40 mm and then brought nearer. G. B. COLLYER

Vitamin A und Auge. By Boyan Rankov. Pp. 51. DDR19:80 M. Georg Thieme: Leipzig. 1979.

The importance of the role that vitamin A plays in the health of the eye cannot be overstressed. Not only is it concerned in the visual process, but it is essential for the normal regulation of cell metabolism in all ocular tissues. This interesting monograph discusses the biochemistry and physiology of the vitamin and relates it to its influence on the eye. Vitamin A lack is still one of the major causes of blindness in the world and the pathological changes associated with this lack are described and the geographical distribution of nutritional eye disease is reported. The value of Vitamin A therapy in the treatment of nutritional blindness is well-established, but its use in retinal degenerations and pigmentary retinopathies has little support from clinical trials although preparations are still widely used in many countries.

The author records the many uses and indications uncritically and there is an extensive bibliography. This small treatise therefore provides a useful summary of the present position of vitamin A in ophthalmology.

T. J. FFYTCHÉ

Klinik und Praxis der Ophthalmodynamometrie, Ophthalmodynamographie, Temporalisdynamographie. Ed. CHRISTA ULRICH. Pp. 219. DDR72 M. Georg Thieme: Leipzig. 1980.

The search continues for accurate noninvasive methods of assessing carotid and cerebral blood flow, and the 3 techniques of ophthalmodynamometry, ophthalmodynamography, and temporalisdynamography are described here and evaluated in detail. Although the ocular circulation plays a key role as an indicator of the underlying carotid and cerebral vascular abnormalities, little information can be derived from these procedures about the eye itself, and this book therefore is more the province of the neurologist and neuroradiologist. T. J. FFYTCHÉ

Notes

Infectious diseases of eye

A postgraduate course on 'Clinical management of infectious diseases of the eye: newer developments' will be held at the University of California in San Francisco on 11–12 June 1981. Details from Extended Programs in Medical Education, Room 569-U, University of California, San Francisco, California 94143, USA.

Retinal disorders

The Retinal Vascular Center of the Wilmer Institute will celebrate its 11th anniversary at Big Sky, Montana, on 12–17 July 1981. The conference is entitled 'Diagnosis and management of retinal vascular and macular disorders.' Details from Program Coordinator, Office of Continuing Education, Johns Hopkins University, 720 Rutland Avenue, Turner 22, Baltimore, Maryland 21205, USA.

Genetics in ophthalmology

An international symposium on genetics in ophthalmology will be held in Jerusalem on 20–30 September 1981. Details from Professor S. Merin, Chairman of the Organising Committee, PO Box 983, Jerusalem, Israel.

Microsurgery courses

The Department of Clinical Ophthalmology, Institute of Ophthalmology, will conduct practical courses in microsurgery of the cornea and closed intraocular microsurgery to be held concurrently on 8–9 October 1981. Applications are invited from consultants, senior registrars, and those overseas holding equivalent positions. Fees for each course will be £100 and the closing date for applications will be 31 August 1981. Application forms and further details may be obtained from Microsurgical Course Secretary, Department of Clinical Ophthalmology, Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PD.