Notes

XXIV International Congress of Ophthalmology

The Glaucoma Society will meet in association with the International Society for the Prevention of Blindness. The meeting is open to ophthalmologists with a special interest in glaucoma. Deadline for free paper abstracts is 1 November 1981. Details from John Hetherington Jr, MD, University of California Medical Center, 400 Parnassus Avenue, Room A-775, San Francisco, California 94143, USA.

Contact lens technology

The Cullen Eye Institute, Baylor College of Medicine, will hold its annual course in contact lens technology on 3–5 December 1981. Details from Joseph W. Soper, Program Chairman, Contact Lens Technology Course, Department of Ophthalmology, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX 77030, USA.

Research prize

The first Ludwig von Sallmann prize will be awarded at the Vth International Congress of Eye Research to be held on 3–8 October 1982 at the Koningshof Conference Centre, Eindhoven, The Netherlands, to an individual for his outstanding achievement in ophthalmology and vision. Further information from Peter Gouras, MD, Chairman of the von Sallmann Prize Committee, Columbia University/College of Physicians and Surgeons, 630 West 168th Street, New York, New York 10032, USA.

Genetics and paediatrics

At the occasion of the International Congress of Ophthalmology in San Francisco (November 1982) there will be a combined meeting of the International Society of Ophthalmic Genetics and of the International Society of Paediatric Ophthalmology. The main topics will be functional examinations in children, malformation syndromes, the hereditary and paediatric diseases of the cornea, and the hereditary and paediatric diseases of the lens. Those who want to present a paper should write to Dr Irene Maumenee, Department of Ophthalmology, Wilmer Institute, Johns Hopkins Hospital, 601 N. Broadway, Baltimore, Md 21205, USA, for genetic papers, and to Professor M. Maione, Istituto di Oftalmologia, Via A. Gramsci 14, I-43100 Parma, Italy, for paediatric papers. Those who want to become a member of the International Society of Ophthalmic Genetics should write to Dr E. Cotlier, Yale University, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, 310 Cedar Street, PO Box 3333, New Haven, Conn 06510, USA, and those who want to become a member of the International Society of Paediatric Ophthalmology should write to Professor M. Maione at the address given above.

Book reviews

Methods of Assessment of Avoidable Blindness. WHO Offset Publication No. 54. Pp. 42. Sw.fr.4. World Health Organisation: Geneva. 1980.

This small booklet consists of guidelines arising out of a meeting held in San Francisco in 1979 to consider methods for assessing the magnitude and nature of avoidable blindness, particularly in those areas of the world where the major causes, such as trachoma, xerophthalmia, onchocerciasis, and untreated cataracts are particularly prevalent. The basic principles which guide the design and the conduct and interpretation of such surveys are discussed. There seems little doubt that if the criteria set out were adequately heeded in the preparation of surveys the value of the resulting material would be enhanced. The point is clearly made that, even though avoidable blindness is widely recognised in both nature and extent in many parts of the world, there are still countries where health authorities may not necessarily be aware of the presence of a serious problem within their own jurisdiction.

M. J. GILKES

Manual of Ocular Diagnosis and Therapy. Ed. DEBORAH PAVAN-LANGSTON. Pp. 479. \$13.95. Little, Brown: Boston, Mass. 1980.

This new textbook of ophthalmology from the Boston School is full of up-to-date information about clinical ophthalmology. In 346 closely packed pages the 10 authors have distilled most of the essential facts relevant to the subject. All through the emphasis is on the practical aspects — 'face to face with the patient.' There are 12 chapters, each dealing with the common ocular diseases and many of the rare ones in a systematic fashion. The text is accurate and condensed and includes brief sections on fluorescein angiography, electrodiagnosis, and ultrasound.

The practical advice on treatment is sound, whether it be on cataract, glaucoma, or squint, and there is a welcome emphasis on early operation in congenital cataract. No attempt is made to describe surgical operations in detail. Types of intraocular lenses are briefly mentioned, but in the choice of anterior chamber implants it is the corneal diameter and not the curvature that must be measured. In the section on the treatment of congenital glaucoma the corneal diameter should be included as part of the assessment of the care, and in the treatment of lime burns no mention is made of sodium versenate irrigation and prevention of symblepharon by contact lens or amnion.

These points, however, are relatively minor, and overall the impression is of a detailed practical textbook full of useful clinical information which should be of great value to anyone training in ophthalmology.

C. A. BROWN

Nutritional Ophthalmology. By DONALD S. McLAREN. Pp. 438. £32.00. Academic Press: London. 1980.

This is an excellent and extensive account of all the factors associated with nutrition which can cause ocular pathology. Detailed accounts correlate the effects of deficiencies of animal food factors with similar deficiencies in man. The book is thus of equal value to research workers and