Accommodation is neither overage, underage, or average, though some writers have extrapolated amplitude curves to life expectancy. This only proves that anyone can misapply the law of probability, so true in general, so fallacious in particular.

It also proves that there is no limit to the suffering to which some writers subject uncomplaining sheets of paper.

ROBERT WEALE


The introduction of computerised tomography as an investigative procedure has necessitated a reorientation of the radiologist's knowledge of anatomy. The images obtained by this technique define structures section by section and in the latest scanners can be displayed in 3 dimensions. This atlas demonstrates sectional anatomy of the head and neck in 4 planes; axial, semiaxial, coronal, and sagittal, and is intended as an anatomical guideline for CT studies. In addition to photographs of anatomical sections made from the cadaver, radiographs of the sections are also included. These are the most informative of the illustrations, which, in spite of their excellence of reproduction, on the whole do not always give adequate detail either in the anatomical sections or in the corresponding CT scans. Although the CT scans of the gross head and neck anatomy correlate well with the anatomical specimens, detail in such regions as the petromastoid, larynx, and orbit is inadequate. Clearly these areas require separate treatment both by CT and in corresponding anatomical studies, and should not be dealt with as part of general head and neck scans. The work is therefore likely to be useful to the general neuroradiologist or neurologist concerned with brain scanning, but could not be recommended to the ophthalmologist dealing with orbital CT, or for that matter the radiologist concerned with ear, nose, and throat problems.

G. A. S. LLOYD


This book is a compilation of papers presented at the 17th meeting of the International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision held in Erfurt in 1979. Since the meeting was held in East Germany, papers from Russia and the Eastern block are well represented and thanks to careful translation and editing are clearly readable. The first part of the book, on 'Visual electrodiagnosis in systemic diseases', deals with several papers on the electroretinogram (ERG) in chronic nephropathy together with other papers relating changes in the ERG to vascular disease in the eye. In the second part of the book can be found some interesting new ideas on the use of the laser stimulus to produce local ERGs, and there are also more papers on the relationship between the stimulus field and the visual evoked response.

The volume provides a useful collection of papers for anyone interested in the field as well as a good source of references.

N. R. GALLOWAY


Beginning with a very readable introduction to the history of ocular pathology by Norman Ashton, the body of the book is divided into 5 sections dealing with developmental, degenerative, and dystrophic lesions, with inflammatory disease, with ocular involvement in systemic disease, with tumours, and with several miscellaneous conditions. Each is preceded by a useful synopsis from the editors succinctly surveying the milestones in the topics selected for discussion. The sections themselves consist of reprinted articles from the literature written by some 50 distinguished ophthalmic pathologists, many of whom, it is good to report, continue to be active in the field. To single out names would be invidious.

I have found this a most difficult book to review. Not because of any complaint with the component parts, since, as far as I can judge, it is a book of the sort, the quality of the articles chosen for inclusion is beyond reproach. No, the difficulty arises in determining to whom the book is addressed. Composed for the most part of papers written between the last 25 years and still readily available in the original, there would seem little reason to go to the trouble and expense of obtaining this separate publication. Apart from devotees of the subspecialty of ophthalmic pathology I doubt very much whether the generality of ophthalmologists will find this compilation of gems of compelling virtue. This judgment may be a little harsh, especially on the editors, for whom the putting together of the book has clearly been a task dear to their hearts, but I cannot help the feeling that here is a book which is beautifully dressed but has nowhere to go.

ALEC GARNER

Phügertrident-Plates for Testing the Sense of Colour.


This book uses a modification of the familiar 'E' game to test colour vision with pseudochromatic plates. It is described as being useful for testing children and other illiterates and as being suitable for testing by nonophthalmologists. It is simple to use and can approximately grade the severity of red/green colour blindness. It is a quick screening test, and the ophthalmologist may find it a useful addition to the tracing plates of the familiar Ishihara test.

D. S. J. TAYLOR


The 1980 Year Book has made its usual early appearance and is a worthy successor to previous editions. A précis of recent advances in particular aspects of ophthalmology serves as an introduction to the main chapters. The aspects discussed are orbital rhabdomyosarcomas, development of the geniculo-cortical pathways, extended wear contact lenses, conjunctival biopsy for sarcoidosis, refractive keratoplasty, the mechanism of resistance to aqueous outflow, intra- versus extracapsular extraction, birdshot retino...
choroidopathy, vitrectomy, chloroquine retinopathy, and automated perimetry. Sections on medical ophthalmology (including drug therapy), ophthalmic surgery, basic sciences, injuries, and miscellaneous subjects complete a comprehensive review of the essence of ophthalmic literature for 1980. A busy practitioner could not do better than make this his bedside book and in this way keep himself up to date at a cost of approximately 50p per week.

STEPHEN MILLER


This is a new edition of Chandler and Grant's classic text, Lectures on Glucoma. Written by 2 masters of their subject, with contributions from 6 of their younger colleagues, the aim of the book, stated in the preface to the first edition, of providing 'instruction in the diagnosis and management of glucoma' has been amply fulfilled.

This is essentially a clinical book, and there is little discussion of the anatomy or pathophysiology of glucoma except where relevant to a particular problem. The style is forthright, even didactic, but very readable. The contributed chapters and sections, which are clearly acknowledged, have been carefully edited by the senior authors to fit into the overall structure of the book and there is no jarring change of style or emphasis. At first glance the paucity of illustrations seems to be a major deficiency, and for the student this may be so, but the quality of the text and the profusion of illustrative case histories more than compensate.

It is hard to find fault with the contents. The section on examination of the eye in glucoma reveals the authors' thorough approach, and the section on gonioscopy is particularly rewarding. But many ophthalmologists would probably place a much greater emphasis on the importance of detailed visual field examination. However, it is in the subsequent chapters on the diagnosis and management of the adult and childhood glucomas, particularly the more difficult and less common types, that the greatest appeal of this book will lie. It will be used not only as a basic text by ophthalmologists in training but also throughout their career when confronted by an awkward glucoma problem.

There is probably no better book than this on glucoma, and it represents outstanding value for money. It is highly recommended.

ROGER COAKES


The International Perimetric Society (IPS) was founded in Marseilles in 1974 with stated objectives that included: 'stimulating research into visual field and standardisation of method of visual field examination and equipment.' Since that time the society's 2-yearly meetings have established themselves as important landmarks in the development of perimetry. The published proceedings (under the skilled editorship of Dr Greve, who is joined in this volume by Dr Verriest) provide a worthy edition to the library shelves, a useful reference for all those interested in current thought on perimetry. This latest volume in the series is no exception. The book is divided into 8 sections: computer assisted perimetry, instruments and strategies, psychophysical and visually evoked electrical responses, special psychophysical methods, colour perimetry, optic nerve, visual field in various diseases, and varia. Fifty-nine papers are included: the work described may have been totally new or an updating of the author's known interest on the subject.

With such a wide range of papers presented it is possible only to comment upon a few of them. In the section on computer assisted perimetry Bebie and Fankhauser and then Gloor and coworkers used the Octopus perimeter to detect intranindividual variations on sequential field testing. This is an important problem in glucoma management. When does the patients' visual field really get worse, and when is apparent worsening of the visual field caused by inherent variability in the patients' response? Phelps and coworkers, Johnson and Keltner, discuss psychophysical methods, and the latter authors using it to differentiate between optic nerve lesions and ambylopia. Drance, in the Richard-Cross lecture, noted that 19% of ocular hypertensives with 100 Hue score of ≤ 100 and 77% of ocular hypertensives with 100 Hue score ≥ 200 developed a field defect during a 5-year follow-up. Hedin and Verriest presented a comprehensive report on colour perimetry, reviewing current knowledge of peripheral colour vision physiology. They stated that with adherence to strict standards colour perimetry is of clinical value. One such example is provided by Genio and Friedmann, who demonstrated that blue rather than white light is more sensitive for detecting early field defects in glucoma. Foulds, in an invited lecture, demonstrated the importance of different tests of visual function in assessing patients with optic nerve disease.

The IPS aims 'to promote the diffusion of knowledge and understanding of visual field examination ... and to collect and compare knowledge about visual field defects as found with different methods of examination.' With its 2-yearly meetings and subsequent publication of the proceedings it has gone a long way in succeeding.

ROGER A. HITCHINGS


How much should the ophthalmologist know about soft contact lenses? At least enough to diagnose corneal oedema due to their use, to check whether the lens is in good condition and fitting reasonably well, and to spot the other gross corneal complication which may arise.

Is this a book to teach him what he wants? Not really. It is a book designed for the experienced fitter rather than a surgeon seeking a little knowledge. A multiple author book of almost encyclopaedic coverage, it is all there, history, chemistry, physiology, and physical and optical properties being considered in depth. Edited, and in part written, by the director of the Contact Lens Department at Moorfields, the clinical aspects are fully covered. The general reader will benefit from the chapters on spoilation (called spoilation in the text), complications, contact lens hygiene, and, to a lesser extent, that on fitting principles. He will learn much from the excellent colour plates. I found the sections on...