Book reviews

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

Glaucoma. 2nd edn. By PAUL A. CHANDLER and W. MORTON GRANT. Pp. 381. £18.00. Lea and Febiger: Philadelphia. 1979.

This is a new edition of Chandler and Grant's classic text, *Lectures on Glaucoma*. 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 glaucoma' has been amply fulfilled.

This is essentially a clinical book, and there is little discussion of the anatomy or pathophysiology of glaucoma 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 glaucoma 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 glaucomas, 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 glaucoma problem.

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

ROGER COAKES

Documenta Ophthalmologica Proceedings Series 26. Fourth International Visual Field Symposium Bristol 1980. Eds. E. L. GREVE and G. VERRIEST. Pp. 406. Dfl. 170. Junk: The Hague. 1981.

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 intraindividual variations on sequential field testing. This is an important problem in glaucoma 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 acuity perimetry, the latter authors using it to differentiate between optic nerve lesions and amblyopia. 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 glaucoma. 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

Soft Contact Lenses. By MONTAGUE RUBEN. Pp. 496. £28.50. Bailliere Tindall: London. 1978.

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 spooliation (called spooliation 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