

healing is detailed and excellent, as is the chapter on keratomileusis and keratophakia by Dr Jose Barraquer. The section dealing with postoperative corneal astigmatism is, however, of little interest to the general ophthalmologist, with its many complicated geometrical analyses.

The second part of the book, dealing with postoperative complications, consists of 21 chapters. All of the complications are discussed in detail, from common complications such as shallowing of the anterior chamber to rare ones such as epithelial invasion. The descriptions are uniformly excellent.

J. J. KANSKI

Illustrated Handbook of Ophthalmology. By RUDOLF SACHSENWEGER. Pp. 164. £7.50. John Wright: Bristol. 1981.

This book, which has been translated from the original German edition, is aimed at medical and ophthalmic optic undergraduates. It will have an immediate appeal for students seeking a text to supplement their clinical teaching, for it is an attractive volume, profusely illustrated by monochrome and colour photographs and excellent diagrams.

A considerable amount of information is contained within its 150 pages, but the format is somewhat old fashioned and the overall approach too systematic. A greater emphasis on presenting symptoms and differential diagnosis would have increased the book's value to the student. The text, however, is clear, and an appropriate emphasis has been placed on medical ophthalmology with only brief accounts of surgical procedures. The translation from the original is excellent, and the book has been well edited to bring it into line with United Kingdom practice.

ROGER COAKES

Ptosis: 3rd edn. By CROWELL BEARD. Pp. 276. £35.75. C. V. Mosby: London. 1981.

This book remains the classical monograph on ptosis surgery. The format has not been altered in this new edition and the basic text is the same. The main changes are in the chapter on newer operations for ptosis. It has been updated

to include many of the most recent concepts. The other chapters have also been brought up to date with the addition of several new and relevant references. The size of the book has not increased significantly, since the author has omitted some of the material that he previously published in order to make room for the new additions.

Crowell Beard has more experience in ptosis surgery than anybody else in the world and yet has the ability to present each chapter in such a clear and logical way that it is readily intelligible to anyone wishing to learn about the subject. The basic anatomy, physiology, and pathology are clearly described, and all the operations are well illustrated with excellent diagrams. There are a profusion of clinical photographs which demonstrate what may and may not be achieved with the different procedures. He has not altered his personal anecdotal style of writing, which makes the book eminently readable as a whole, while at the same time it is so well indexed that it can be used as a reference book for an opinion on any problem likely to be encountered in ptosis surgery.

This book should be read by everyone with any interest in ptosis, and those who practise ptosis surgery are strongly recommended to buy it both as a practical guide and as an up-to-date reference book.

J. R. O. COLLIN

An Atlas of Ophthalmic Surgery. 3rd edn. By J. H. KING AND J. A. C. WADSWORTH. Pp. 654. £49.00. Harper and Row: London. 1981.

The coverage of the field of ophthalmic surgery in this book (its third edition) is good but at times too limited. The monochromatic illustrations are excellent and numerous, being accompanied by brief explanatory texts covering many aspects of the surgical manoeuvres involved in these operations. These texts probably fail in that they are too brief and for the student leave some questions unanswered, while the operations covered in the book are only the ones preferred by the authors; thus alternative measures are not described. The illustrations are beautiful and demonstrate the chosen steps in the operations with a rare clarity. New sections in this edition include recent advances in eye surgery.

IAN DUGUID