and the book will doubtless find a wide circulation in our increasingly health-conscious population.

P. D. TREVOR-ROPER

Reference

- 1 Worthen D. Economic aspects of the management of ocular hypertension. *Surv Ophthalmol* 1980; 25: 206.

Documenta Ophthalmologica Proceedings Series 28. Third International Conference on Myopia, Copenhagen 1980. Eds. H. C. Fledelius, P. H. Alsbirk, E. Goldschmidt. Pp. 253. Dfl.135.00. W. Junk: The Hague, 1981.

The transactions of the Third International Conference on Myopia are reported, and deal with several aspects of myopia. The subject grouping would indicate that research is chiefly concerned with the correlations of myopia, education, heredity, and scleral rigidity. Animal studies in monkeys elucidate the possible mechanisms of accommodation and internal eye pressure changes. There are also some contributions on pathological myopia and treatments to arrest myopia.

MONTAGUE RUBEN

The Visual Fields: A Textbook and Atlas of Clinical Perimetry. 5th edn. By DAVID O. HARRINGTON. Pp. 437. £27.00. Mosby: London. 1981.

The first edition of this book appeared in 1956 and its excellence as a practical guide to the examination of the visual field was quickly recognised. The main factors which have contributed to its success are a common-sense approach to the subject and plenty of good illustrations. The whole text is brought to life by the enthusiasm of the author for a method of examination which he believes to be of great clinical importance and with which the ophthalmologist himself must be closely associated.

Much of the revision undertaken since the fourth edition in 1976 is concerned with the introduction of new apparatus and techniques for examining the visual field, but the general arrangement of the book, with part I dealing with procedures and part II dealing with interpretation of results, has been retained. As examples of the changes we may note that descriptions of the Ferree-Rand perimeter, the Lloyd stereocampimeter, and Estermann's scoring grids for the tangent screen have been eliminated or curtailed, and in their place there appear accounts of the Baylor visual field programmer, the Fieldmaster, the Perimetron and the Octopus. Due acknowledgment is thus given to the contribution of new technology to the examination of the visual fields, but one sees clearly that the author believes that the ophthalmologist must not allow complicated automated apparatus to weaken his own involvement in the performance and interpretation of visual field tests. There is little need for much revision elsewhere in the book, though there is an increase in the number of substances which have to be mentioned in the section on toxic amblyopias, and CT

scans have been added to illustrate cases in the sections on optic nerve, chiasma, and visual pathways.

Undoubtedly this edition maintains the high standard previously set.

J. GLOSTER

Intraocular Lenses. Ed. DALJIT SINGH. Pp. 225. £25.75. Praeger: New York. 1981.

Despite the fact that this book has been dedicated by the authors to 'the ophthalmologist who wants to learn more about intraocular lenses' it is really rather difficult to determine at which readers it has been directed. The book certainly gives an account of intraocular lenses and their usage up to 1979 and contains a lot of rather personal views in connection with the surgery. For an ophthalmologist already practising intraocular lens surgery it contains nothing new, and in fact the text is sadly out of date, as the subject has marched on a good deal since this book was assembled.

For the student seeking surgical guidance the text cannot be recommended, not so much because it is now behind the times but more because of some of the controversial material included. It is difficult to ignore statements to the effect that the superior rectus suture can be used to lift an eye out of a deep socket to facilitate surgery, but, more dangerously, the views expressed on indications and contraindications would be quite invalid in the UK.

A chapter is included on the insertion of intraocular lenses in very young patients, including infants, and I think that insufficient care has been taken to remind the reader that even in 1982 such views are not widely supported even in the United States.

This book deals in a way which is neither radical nor illuminating with a subject which has already been well covered in better texts, and I fear most purchasers would run the risk of being either disappointed or seriously misled.

A. D. MCG. STEELE

The Cranial Nerves. Eds. M. SAMII AND P. J. JANNETTA. Pp. 664. DM 180.00. Springer-Verlag: Berlin. 1981.

It is a great pity that the quality of this book is so patchy. It is an interesting attempt to synthesise anatomy, physiology, pathology, medicine, and surgery. Some of the reviews are very good (for example, Jannetta's chapter on the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia and hemifacial spasm), others are written in the most appalling English, which surely in a book written in English should have been corrected by the English-speaking editor, who should make sure that sentences like this do not appear: 'In newborns it is like a canal outlet to the intracranial side which in the mid-canal region and in the orbital exit looks like a rounded and on-point standing triangle or ellipse' (p. 77, referring to the optic canal). Unfortunately there are many other infelicities of style; arachnopathia pontocerebellaris may be perfectly meaningful to those of us who remember our Latin but not

to others. For the ophthalmologist there are accounts of the anatomy of the optic nerve and chiasm, and there are chapters on the common compressive lesions of the optic nerves and chiasm. One chapter entitled 'Optic nerve compression by processes of the rhinobasis' is mostly about diseases of the paranasal sinuses. Ocular palsies due to aneurysms and pituitary adenomas are reviewed.

It is difficult to know at whom this volume is directed. It is hardly a comprehensive work of reference and most of its chapters are very difficult to read, and there is nothing which struck this reviewer as being of special interest to the ophthalmologist which could not be found elsewhere.

C. J. EARL

Current Ocular Therapy. By FREDERICK T. FRAUNFELDER and F. HAMPTON ROY. Pp. 647. £24.25. W. B. Saunders: Philadelphia. 1980.

Each author of this book has been asked to write a precis of today's treatment for a specific syndrome. On the basis of his experience he defines the syndrome, discusses systemic, supportive and ocular therapy, outlines ocular or periocular manifestations, describes precautions which are necessary in applying the recommended therapy, and ends by commenting on the disease and its treatment. The result is a most useful reference book and a thoroughly practical compendium. The personal aspect of the recommendations is helpful in that each author declares his preference when several options are offered in the way of therapy.

It is hardly a book which can be read through by the student or the trainee. It is rather a compendium of practical knowledge which should be handy for quick reference. For the practising physician in ophthalmology it is difficult to imagine a more helpful auxiliary, because each author has taken a special interest in the syndromes which he discusses, and they are chosen from all over the world.

STEPHEN MILLER

Molecular and Cellular Biology of the Eye Lens. Ed. HANS BLOEMENDAL. Pp. 469. £48.00. John Wiley: Chichester. 1981.

In a comprehensive account of the biochemistry of lens protein and the morphology of the lens particular attention has been paid to recent work on the cytoskeleton and contractile elements in the lens cell. This is further elaborated by a chapter devoted to the relationships between lenticular plasma membranes, the cytoskeleton, and microtubules. Detailed chapters on lens crystalline biosynthesis and the relationships between the crystalline of lower animals are also included. Proof of aging of lens proteins and the changes in their structure as seen in cataract are discussed. The final chapters deal with changes in concentration and enzymic activity due to aging and cataract formation. Particularly useful features of the book are the helpful concluding remarks and an extensive bibliography at the end of each chapter.

R. F. FISHER

Ocular Microsurgery. Developments in Ophthalmology. Vol. 1. Eds. A. S. M. LIM, L. C. Y. KHOO, and L. B. C. ANG. Pp. 95. Sfr. 50. Karger: Basle. 1981

This small volume contains a selection of articles and discussions presented at the World Convention on Microsurgery held in Singapore at the end of 1979. It proved to be important in promoting the extension of microsurgical knowledge and experience in the developing world. Ocular microsurgery is not covered systematically, but the topics indicate its wide scope. There is no index, and there are a few unfortunate misprints, but the book gives useful information to those wishing to make more effective use of the microscope.

M. J. ROPER-HALL

Notes

Cataract surgery

The New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology will hold its 32nd annual symposium on cataract surgery on 16–20 February 1983. Details from Mr Bud Robinson, Executive Secretary, New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology, Suite 512, 2025 Gravier Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, USA.

Glaucoma congress

A joint meeting of the 7th International Glaucoma Congress and 18th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Contemporary Ophthalmology will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Bal Harbour, Florida, USA, on 13–19 March 1983. Details from John G. Bellows, MD, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 1044, Chicago, Illinois 60611, USA.

Public health ophthalmology

A special master's degree programme in public health ophthalmology will be offered during 1983–4 by the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions under the auspices of its International Center for Epidemiologic and Preventive Ophthalmology, a WHO collaborating centre. The programme is designed for persons interested in initiating, developing, and providing leadership to national or regional blindness prevention activities and in conducting serious clinical epidemiological research. Fifteen to 20 places are available for participants from developing and developed countries. Further information from Training Co-ordinator, ICEPO, Wilmer Institute, Johns Hopkins Hospital, 600 N. Wolfe Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21205, USA.