

nurse in training and perfect for the senior house officer about to accept his first resident job in ophthalmology; a bird's-eye view stressing the important highlights, but leaving the cat, not among the pigeons, but in the shades of the undergrowth, stalking like Nemesis the flighty tyro who has read *Essential Ophthalmology* and thinks he knows it all.

STEPHEN MILLER

Atlas of the Human Skull. By MARGARET M. WADDINGTON. Pp. 196. No price given. Academy Books: Rutland, USA. 1981.

This is a beautifully produced atlas of the cranial skeleton, divided into 2 main sections and illustrating by means of coloured photographs and simple line drawings the topographical anatomy of the intact skull (82 pages) and of individual bones (62 pages). In the section on the skull colour coding demonstrates clearly which bone is which, and muscular attachments are indicated on separate drawings. The muscles and their actions are listed in an appendix. While the extensive but not very useful glossary probably does not justify the 30 pages it takes up, there is an excellent index.

The book stands or falls by its pictures, which are generally excellent, although a surprising number seem to suffer from poor colour registration (or possibly unsharp focus). Photographs are supplemented by at least one labelled drawing in every case, and whatever may not be completely clear in one is brought out in the other. Any quibbles with the anatomical nomenclature are minor. However, the section specifically devoted to the orbit is only 14 pages long, whereas those of interest to otolaryngologists (including several pages redrawn from Anson and Donaldson's *Surgical Anatomy of the Temporal Bone and Ear*) are much more extensive. A luxury production such as this would undoubtedly be of more value to neuroscientists and rich medical students, but should certainly find shelf space in any extensive departmental library.

In an unfortunate turn of phrase, the writer of the preface suggests that Dr Waddington has a 'facile mind.' The care and skill which have gone into the production of this atlas belie that (presumably inadvertent) attribution.

I. F. MOSELEY

A Colour Atlas of Head and Neck Anatomy. By R. M. H. MCMINN, R. T. HUTCHINGS, B. M. LOGAN. Pp. 240. £18.00. Wolfe Medical Publications: London, 1981.

This is a superb atlas for students in the 1980s. The book contains a series of wonderful photographs each with an adjacent and a readily comprehensible key. The sheer quality of the photographs and the care that has gone into clearly labelling even the most obscure structures is superb. Technically this book is brilliant. All of us would have welcomed it during our student days. Gone are the shadowy wood blocks or minute etchings of incomprehensibly dissected and obscurely displayed specimens. Instead we have stark photographs showing wherever possible all required relationships in exploded views that would delight an engineer.

The book starts with the osteology of the skull showing bones on a black background, and it goes on to explain their relationships with soft tissues. The gross anatomy of soft tissues is cleverly presented, starting with external features and then showing photographs of dissections getting progressively deeper into tissue systems. A brilliant standard of photography is maintained throughout. I cannot recommend this book too highly. For me it was a pleasure to study the relationships of systems that I had long forgotten and sometimes mislearnt. The authors should be highly commended for realising a student's dream. It is a must for anatomists.

JOHN MARSHALL

Sights and Sounds in Ophthalmology. Vol. 4. Diabetic Retinopathy. By S. L. FINE and A. PATZ. Pp. 61 with slides and tapes. £130.00. C. V. Mosby: St. Louis. 1980.

This is a tape-slide teaching programme comprising 3 standard double-sided cassettes and 100 35-mm transparencies; the total running time is about 4 hours. There is an accompanying parallel written text, which includes a number of tables not illustrated on the slides but mentioned in the commentary. The majority of slides present multiple fundus photographs, including fluorescein angiograms, and there are also some photomicrographs and diagrams.

The principal purpose of the programme is to teach by clinical illustration the management of proliferative diabetic retinopathy by argon laser photocoagulation. The commentary gives concise clinical details, a description of the slides, and a commentary on the management. The pathogenesis of diabetic retinopathy, macular oedema, and vitrectomy in diabetic retinopathy are also mentioned, and there is a short personal assessment section at the end by way of revision.

This is a teaching programme of high quality in a subject of great importance to all ophthalmologists and physicians in diabetes. It is to be hoped that despite the price it will be made widely available in ophthalmic and general medical teaching centres. It provides a thorough didactic presentation of the 'state of the art' with much practical information and opinions which will be generally acceptable.

There were some minor mistakes in the review copy. Two slides were missing in the sense that, though the mounts were present, they contained only a duplicate of the transparency serially preceding. The orientation of one transparency was also reversed, which confused the references in the commentary.

DAVID W. HILL

Orbital Disease: A Practical Approach. By GREGORY B. KROHEL, WILLIAM B. STEWART, RICHARD M. CHAVIS. Pp. 160. £13.00. Grune and Stratton: New York. 1981.

In this small book the authors suggest that ophthalmologists are now actively assuming the role as the primary physicians of orbital disease, and their volume is aimed to provide a clinically orientated practical text based on signs and