

symptoms of orbital disease. They are successful in their aim, and the book has the clinical information provided by the close study of a large number of patients. It is organised in 4 sections. The first, on clinical evaluation, is based on the 6 Ps: pain, progression, proptosis, palpation, pulsation, and periocular. The remaining 3 sections include laboratory studies, surgical management, and general management.

However, the approach tends to lead to a rather superficial appraisal of the subject, which is evident in 3 ways. Firstly, some medical conditions are virtually neglected (e.g., amyloid, Wegener's granulomatosis, plasmacytomas) or treated without discussion of the modern concepts of pathogenesis. Thus in thyroid disease the immunological abnormalities produced by different antibodies are lacking, and in lymphomas there is scant mention of T or B subsets or the relevance of clonal studies. Secondly, the authors with their superior experience make brief clinical remarks without references or personal attributes, so the reader is not sure how to search for further information. Thus, for example, on 2 occasions uveitis in association with an orbital lesion is attributed to sarcoidosis. There are no references, and the inquisitive reader may like information on the frequency and validity of this rare association.

Thirdly, the text is rather hard to use as a reference book, because if in your clinic you have a patient with a particular condition there is no particular section of the book that deals with it. I therefore attempted to use this practical guide in my clinic for the next 2 patients I saw with orbital problems. The first was a case of carotid cavernous fistula, and I could find no diagnostic or therapeutic information on the subject, and only brief mention was made in the subsection on arteriovenous malformations. The next case of an orbital apex mass with ptosis was also not diagnostically helped by this book.

This book therefore provides a useful practical introduction to the diagnosis and management of orbital disease. Providing some value to the practising ophthalmologist, I think the book's main role will be enabling residents to examine their patients more satisfactorily. The 3 authors all served fellowships with Mr John E. Wright, and this book is therefore in part a tribute to him and his contribution to orbital disease.

M. D. SANDERS

Management of Low Vision. By GERALD E. FONDA. Pp. 248. DM.88.00. Georg Thieme Verlag: Stuttgart. 1981.

Dr Fonda's second book includes a relevant and welcome chapter on genetics and updates the information on hardware such as closed-circuit television that was not in use when his first book on low vision was published many years ago. Never an advocate of telescopic lenses, his careful description of the disadvantages of the bioptic for driving should convince any waverers. Unfortunately the book does have shortcomings. The references are sparse and highly selective, and misuse of language both grammatically and semantically (for example, handicap is defined as deterioration) jars the reader and makes the book difficult to read despite the excellent print and illustrations.

JANET SILVER

Eye Surgery: An Introduction to Operative Technique. By GEORG EISNER. Pp. 189. DM.132.00. Springer-Verlag: Berlin. 1980.

The words of Hans Goldmann quoted at the beginning of this book endorse the view that the surgeon who has painstakingly to learn his skill becomes in the long run more expert than one who is so naturally talented that surgical expertise comes effortlessly. The author has put a great deal of time, thought, and effort into studying the mechanics of eye surgery, and the result is a fascinating and beautifully illustrated manual of surgical principles.

This is a book for the ophthalmologist who wants to know the precise reason for and mechanics of each surgical manoeuvre as well as the principles behind instrument design. It is an accurate and lucid guide to basic operative methods in ophthalmology. Instruments, materials, and techniques are described, discussed, and illustrated with regard to their mechanical and physical properties, and these are then related to their clinical use.

Professor Eisner found himself better pleased with the English version of the book than the original, and apart from the occasional Americanism such as 'saturation' the translation by Terry C. Kelgar is hard to fault. I found the text simple and easy to read, while the illustrations by Peter Schneider are for the most part superb.

Perhaps the best guide to how useful a surgical textbook will be to the student is to answer the question, Would I have found this book useful as an ophthalmology resident? As an introduction to operative techniques it is an important addition to the existing textbooks and is unlikely to become outdated in the foreseeable future. I can thoroughly recommend it.

PETER K. LEAVER

Anesthesia in Otolaryngology and Ophthalmology. 2nd edn. By JOHN C. SNOW. Pp. 278. £19.90. Appleton-Century-Crofts: New York. 1982.

This is a well produced book, easily readable and with plenty of references for the more inquiring reader. The illustrations are clear and to the point, as one would expect from such a famous author.

The book appears to be produced particularly for the nurse anaesthetist and so is very didactic. For instance, a local anaesthetic for a cataract extraction requires constant blood pressure recordings, an intravenous drip of dextrose 5%, a mask over the face supplying oxygen, and of course an electrocardioscope—no simpler method being thinkable. Apart from this it has good ideas and the author gives clear account of the problems involved.

JOHN D. SALMON

Ocular Therapeutics and Pharmacology. 6th edn. By PHILIP P. ELLIS. Pp. 320. £22.25. Mosby: London. 1981.

This is the sixth edition of a useful book which is intended as a guide and quick reference for busy ophthalmologists and training residents; it does not aim to be a complete textbook with comprehensive review. Many parts have been

rewritten or updated, with a new chapter on contact lens solutions.

This edition follows the previous order with 2 sections—the first on ocular therapeutics and the second on simple pharmacology. In such a book there is bound to be overlap and there is no attempt to avoid repetition. The first section on therapeutics deals with some basic considerations of treatment, with chapters on corticosteroid, antibiotic, autonomic, antiglaucoma, and anaesthetic agents, followed by medical therapy of most disorders of the eye and ocular adnexa. The second section deals with simple pharmacology of commonly used agents in a somewhat illogical order of groups of drugs which does not follow the usual pattern used in standard works. Each agent is described with the actions, uses, adverse effects, preparations, and adult doses detailed concisely, with a final portion devoted to paediatric dosage.

Such a book is bound to reflect the different pattern of disease in the USA and UK, with some differences in availability of agents. Predictably, histoplasmosis receives more mention than one would expect in the UK. Some recent agents such as sodium cromoglycate and acycloguanosine are dealt with only briefly under conjunctival and corneal diseases respectively but are not mentioned in the pharmacology section or index.

In such a relatively small book the approach has to be didactic. However, where there is controversy (such as the treatment of optic neuritis and pars planitis) opposing views are stated impartially. It is also interesting to note certain differences from standard British practice in therapy, such as the preferred treatment of intraocular infections, which is methicillin and gentamicin intravenously, oral prednisone supplemented by subconjunctival gentamicin and cephaloridine until bacteriological reports are available.

The illustrations are restricted to helpful tables, so that the size and cost of the book have been kept down. One is bound to compare this book with Havener's *Ocular Pharmacology*, which is over twice the size and much more expensive. Ellis's book is much more clinically orientated and a concise guide, whereas Havener's is more a textbook which one consults for references and detailed information.

S. J. CREWS

Neurogenetics and Neuro-ophthalmology. Eds. A. HUBER and D. KLEIN. Pp. 432. Dfl.171·00. Elsevier Biomedical Press: Amsterdam. 1981.

This volume presents the published proceedings of the 6th International Symposium which was held in Zurich, Switzerland, in June 1981. The first section is concerned with myotonic dystrophy, and other sections are on the spinocerebellar hereditaxias, neuropiloidoses, and the Klein-Waardenburg syndrome. A general section on neuro-ophthalmology was concerned largely with a series of papers on ophthalmoplegia plus.

The proceedings though published in English are largely from European institutes, and it must have been a pleasure to hear Klein, Wolman, and Refsum all discussing the conditions they have described. The publication within a year of the symposium is to be commended, though the book has emerged without inclusion of an index or any

information on the discussions. The book includes 60 papers, and this obviously provides a wide variation in length and quality. However, for those ophthalmologists interested in eye movements, cherry red spots, and neuro-degenerative conditions it is worthy of perusal if not of purchase.

M. D. SANDERS

Documenta Ophthalmologica Proceedings Series 29. Ultrasonography in Ophthalmology. Proceedings of the 8th SIDUO Congress. Eds. J. M. THIJSEN and A. M. VERBEEK. Pp. 538. US\$ 99·50. W. Junk: The Hague, Netherlands. 1981

The proceedings of the 8th SIDUO congress are published in 3 parts entitled 'The eye', 'The orbit,' and 'New techniques'. Introductory lectures precede various sections within the 3 parts of the book.

The first section of part 1 concerns vitreous pathology and includes papers on massive preretinal retraction and diabetic eye disease. It is refreshing to see the use of 'real-time' B scanning in such conditions becoming more popular. Interesting work on ultrasonic diagnosis within the eye following silicone oil injection is presented. The section concludes with a round-table discussion containing some very useful practical information.

A stimulating lecture relating histopathology and ultrasonography in intraocular tumours precedes a series of papers on the ultrasonic A scan and B scan findings in intraocular tumours. An exhaustive and comprehensive lecture on ocular biometry introduces a group of interesting papers on A scan measurements of ocular dimensions. Calculation of intraocular lens implant power is also covered in several papers.

Part 2 of the proceedings is introduced by an objective assessment of the role of ultrasound in the investigation and management of orbital disease. Papers containing both A scans and B scans in the orbit follow. Some unusual ideas on the refraction of sound are to be found in this section.

The third part of the book, on new techniques, is opened by a paper of very high standard on 'Digital processing and imaging modes for clinical ultrasound' and is closed by a paper on acoustic measurements of membrane and retinal thickness. The book ends with a section on equipment containing some worthwhile reading. This book will prove valuable reading for those actively involved in ophthalmic ultrasonic diagnosis.

M. RESTORI

DAVID MCLEOD

Vitreous Microsurgery. By STEVE CHARLES. Pp. 191. US\$ 38·50. Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore. 1981.

'Vitreous surgery has been applied successfully to a wide spectrum of ocular diseases. The complex set of biological, systemic risk, and technological considerations confronting the potential surgeon create a difficult decision-making environment.' So begins this text by Dr Steve Charles, of Memphis, who has undoubtedly contributed most to progress in this new surgical discipline since Dr Robert Machemer pioneered vitrectomy with such authority in the