

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