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 heredotaxias, neurolipidoses, 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 neurodegenerative 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. THIJSSEN 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

early 1970s. With commendable brevity yet great attention to the practical issues Dr Charles outlines his own views and practices, with deliberately scant attention to consensus opinion, if such there can be in this rapidly developing field. Most of the problems likely to confront the 'closed microsurgeon' both in the anterior and posterior segments are detailed. I was somewhat surprised that some of the special problems of non-diabetic vasoproliferative disorders (other than retrolental fibroplasia) were not considered, and the section on corneoscleral lacerations was remarkable for the lack of mention of rhegmatogenous components at the ora, which frequently dominate the surgical problem. Similarly, Dr Charles may be unique in achieving removal of epimacular 'pucker' membranes without damage (if not extensive removal) of the underlying basal lamina.

My major criticism of this work, however, lies in its literary style, as exemplified by the opening quotation. Parts of the book demand a degree of concentration at times exceeding that required to perform some of the complicated intraocular manoeuvres which are described. On occasion I found myself reading and rereading passages in an attempt to discover the underlying message, the logic steps between adjacent sentences, or the context of a doubtful remark. Fortunately there are a multitude of excellent diagrams such that one can ultimately forgive the deficiencies in editorial scrutiny of the text.

Criticisms apart, this book is likely to prove the last word in the field of mechanically activated vitreous surgery prior to the laser era which is almost upon us. Despite the 'building block' approach to decision making, it is difficult to conceive of it as a primer in closed microsurgery, since there is a tendency to assume considerable knowledge of engineering and biological principles, and there are no clinical photographs to relate to. Nevertheless, the book is essential reading for ophthalmologists with more than a passing interest in this subject, and will be the 'little red book' of those of us who count ourselves among Dr Charles's disciples.

DAVID MCLEOD

Practical Techniques in Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery. By BYRON C. SMITH and FRANK A. NESI. Pp. 227. £36·00. Mosby: London. 1981.

This book was written, as the preface states, to update the technical details of a limited number of surgical procedures which the authors frequently use. It achieves this aim. The procedures described are beautifully and very clearly illustrated. The text is kept to a minimum. It is succinct, precise, and easy to follow. Full details are given, including anaesthesia, what sutures to use, how to insert them, and what dressings are favoured.

Very little attempt is made to describe the indications for alternative procedures. If the reader does not have a knowledge of ophthalmic plastic surgery he will find it difficult to assess which procedure to choose for any particular patient. For instance, the chapter on ectropion describes only the Byron Smith modification of the Kuhnt-Zymanowski procedure and the Lazy-T operation. Mention is made that an ectropion may be cicatricial or non-cicatricial, but no further specific details are given. In the chapter on lid repair there is no discussion of the difference between a lid margin defect and a more extensive defect. The ptosis chapter does not relate the type of surgery very clearly to the levator function. It would be a pity if the reader thought that a free tarsal graft or a tarsal transfer was the only way of lengthening the lower lid retractors or that a dermis-fat graft was the only suitable orbital implant. Nor is mention made of how to manage complications which might arise, although there is some discussion of how to avoid them.

The book tries to cover the whole field of ophthalmic plastic surgery and includes operations on the eyelids, conjunctiva, lacrimal apparatus, orbital tumours, sockets, and the repair of orbital fractures. With such a wide field it is inevitable that some of the sections are superficial, and it is a pity that no references or indications for further reading are given. Provided the reader understands these limitations he will find many excellent procedures very well described and illustrated in this book. Byron Smith has initiated and modified a large number of ophthalmic plastic operations, and it is valuable to have them collected in one book with details of how he recommends that they should be performed.

J. R. O. COLLIN

Der Gesichtssinn: Neuro-physiologische Grundlagen. By WOLFGANG RÜDIGER. Pp. 100. M 14·60. Georg Thieme Leipzig: West Berlin. 1982.

Many of the recent advances in the neurophysiology of the visual system are included in this excellent study of the retina and its central connections. The sensory and motor components of visual function are discussed from their physiological aspects with reference to human and animal studies. Pathological conditions are mentioned only briefly, for this is basically a book for the neurophysiologist rather than the clinical ophthalmologist. The numerous diagrams are instructive and the bibliography is comprehensive and contemporary.

T. J. FFYTCHE

Manual of Retinal and Choroidal Dystrophies. By MICHAEL A. BLOOME and CHARLES A. GARCIA. Pp. 129. £12·40. Appleton-Century-Crofts: New York. 1982.

This short manual on retinal and choroidal dystrophies is clearly written, well organised, and despite its modest size contains a remarkable amount of up-to-date information. An introductory chapter discusses terminology, including definitions of macular anatomy, and provides a rationale for classifying the retinal and choroidal dystrophies in a topographical manner. A further chapter is devoted to the basic diagnostic tests of retinal function including colour vision, dark adaptation, electro-retinography, electro-oculography, visually evoked responses, and contrast sensitivity.

The remainder of the book is devoted to the various retinal and choroidal dystrophies described in anatomical sequence. The chapters include the vitreoretinal and ganglion cell dystrophies, the rod and rod-cone and cone and cone-rod dystrophies, and retinal pigment epithelial dystrophies. The 2 final chapters relate to disorders of Bruch's membrane and the choroidal dystrophies. The