

Book reviews

Twenty-Five Years of International Ophthalmology (1957-1982). By JULES FRANÇOIS. Pp. 104. US\$10.00. Professor Jules François, Oogheekundige Kliniek, AZ-De Pintelaan 185, B-9000 Gent, Belgium. 1982.

In the first part of this book there is a brief description of the international congresses which have been held since 1957, and at the end of the chapter the value and disadvantages of international congresses are summarised. In the following part the membership of the International Council over the period under review is given. This is followed by a mention of the activities of the council and its associated committees and subcommittees. Part IV relates to the Gonin medal. A short biography of the medallists is given. The last part of the book deals with the Statutes of the International Council of Ophthalmology, of the International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies, and of the International Congresses of Ophthalmology. The regulations of the two awards—the Gonin medal and the International Duke-Elder medal—conclude this small volume. This is a useful reference work for anyone wishing to know the details of the activities of the International Council and its associated bodies.

JAMES R. HUDSON

Documenta Ophthalmologica Proceedings Series 33. Colour Vision Deficiencies VI. Proceedings of the International Symposium, Berlin. 1981. Ed. G. VERRIEST. Pp. 521. Dfl. 235.00. W. Junk: The Hague. 1982.

The Good and the Great generously rub shoulders with the rest in this agglomerate of papers on vision, colour vision, and colour vision defects. Some of the information, for example, on tritanopia, is illuminating, some, like that on tricyclic psychopharmacology and colour vision, could be much compacted. If one turns over the pages and the subconscious whispers 'déjà-vu,'—for example, in connection with responses to short duration red-green mixtures—'déjà-oublié' also matters, as when outdated 1931 data are used to determine tritanopic characteristics. However, the pearls are there, and for their sake it is worth digging through the book.

ROBERT WEALE

Societas Ergophthalmologica Internationalis. 5th Symposium, Bordeaux 1974, 6th Symposium, Hamburg 1976, 7th Symposium, Nagoya 1978. Ed. H.-J. MERTÉ. Pp. 757. DM.298. S. Karger: Munich. 1982.

The proceedings of the last 3 biennial symposia of the International Society of Ergophthalmology have been published as a single volume. The papers from the Nagoya symposium are written in English, but in view of the international membership of the Society it is a pity that English summaries are not provided by Bordeaux and Hamburg.

The 5th Symposium, held at Bordeaux, identifies visual problems in transport and those arising from the use of visual display units. The assessment of compensation for attributable injury is discussed and includes an attempt to standardise compensation for different types of visual field defect.

The 6th Symposium, held at Hamburg, studies aspects of occupational injury and disease and the rehabilitation of workers rendered visually unfit. This symposium includes an interesting paper which defines ergophthalmology and its relationships with clinical ophthalmology and occupational medicine.

The 7th Symposium, held at Nagoya, deals with the visual effects of environmental pollution and studies injuries arising from road traffic accidents. It includes a paper from Germany which relates the fall in the number of perforating wounds of the eye over a 5-year period to the effects of seat belt legislation over the same period.

A. J. RINTOUL

Optokinetics. By HARRY H. MARK. Pp. 198. No price given. John J. Corbett Press: Woodbridge, Connecticut. 1982.

The author presents for the interested reader a meander through the various concepts attributed to the movement of light. Each theory concerning the behaviour of light is dealt with in a historical and philosophical sense. The book is not a textbook but a journey with the author to the library where he has browsed with leisure among the original papers and texts. For example, the ideology regarding space may span from Euclid as described by Daye in 1570 to Mach and his attitude to the analysis of visual sensation in 1959. This book, therefore, is one that can be picked up at any time and read in small parts. There is always enough to make the optically versed reader argue with the author, since many of the ideas expressed are not necessarily conventionally accepted. The ophthalmologist who is in any way interested in his Alma Mater will find the book refreshing and at times amusing (in an esoteric way). While the title of the book may be forbidding, the contents on the contrary are 'elementary, my dear reader!' MONTAGUE RUBEN

Optometric Instrumentation. By DAVID B. HENSON. Pp. 244. £20.00. Butterworths: Sevenoaks, Kent. 1983.

This book is aptly titled. It deals with those aspects of ophthalmic assessment which most often concern optometrists (ophthalmic opticians). The ophthalmologist, who is just as committed to ocular and visual measurement, should not be discouraged.

In 12 concise chapters Dr Henson covers the subjects of ophthalmoscopes, retinoscopes, tonometers, field testing equipment, keratometers, slit-lamps, ophthalmic photography, optometers, trial case lenses and refracting units, visual acuity instrumentation, lens checking equipment, and screeners. The most attractive feature of the text is its wealth of excellent diagrams, drawn by the author himself.