

*Book reviews*

exception can be taken and every reason to believe that it will further international understanding in the study of ophthalmic tumours. This inexpensive volume should be at the side of all those required to report on tumours of the eye and its adnexa.

ALEC GARNER

**Zur Biochemie des Auges.** By Ilona L. Kahán. Pp. 113. US\$12.50. Akadémiai Kiadó: Budapest. 1982.

This book on the biochemistry of the eye consists of 86 pages of text and 13 pages of references. Of the 363 quoted only 5 were published in 1979, 11 in 1978, and the rest earlier. This is a little surprising considering that the date of publication of the book is 1982. It is obvious therefore that the work lacks information on recent advances in eye research. For example, in the section on the retina there is no mention of the occurrence of neuropeptides.

The book does not really provide the reader with an introductory view of the biochemistry of the eye but more of an insight into certain aspects of it. There are 5 chapters in all, dealing with the tears, the lens, the ocular fluids (vitreous, and to a limited extent, aqueous), the retina, and lastly the eye muscles. Information on the biochemistry of the cornea is most conspicuously lacking. The chapter on the tears is in my opinion the best because it succeeds in highlighting the more important data. I cannot honestly recommend that the German text be translated for the benefit of the English-speaking public because of its uniqueness when more accurate, detailed, and recent information may be obtained from any of a number of reviews which appear regularly. For those scientists who read German but have difficulty with English the book will undoubtedly be useful.

NEVILLE N. OSBORNE

**Microsurgery of the Anterior and Posterior Segments of the Eye.** Ed. M. J. ROPER-HALL. Pp. 134. SFr.90.00. Karger: Basel. 1981.

This is the fifth volume in the series of Developments in Ophthalmology from these publishers and is a collection of papers delivered at a meeting of the International Microsurgical Study Group in 1980. No attempt has been made to provide a comprehensive treatise of the subject, and the contributions are confined to recent advances in instrumentation and surgical technique. Therein lies the interest this book has to offer.

It can be warmly recommended to ophthalmologists practising microsurgery and who already have comprehensive surgical knowledge. It is interesting to see how microsurgery has advanced from being confined to the anterior segment to include techniques for a wide variety of disorders, especially of the posterior segment.

ARTHUR D. MCG. STEELE

**Techniques en Ophtalmologie.** By H. SARAUX and J. CHEVALERAUD. Pp. 137. 56F. Masson: Paris. 1982.

This compact volume includes within its compass all the information necessary for the undergraduate medical student and for the postgraduate student reintroducing himself to ophthalmology. It is presented in 4 main parts.

The first deals with the instrumental examination of the globe, ending with a good description of fluorescein angiography and, by example, of its pathological aspects. The second part reviews the subjective methods of examination, beginning with the assessment of the visual acuity. Visual field examination is considered in some detail, together with a critical review of the available instrumentation. The principal causes of visual field defects are discussed. The authors emphasise, in the section on the phenomena of adaptation, that this is a generally neglected subject, and attribute the neglect to some extent to the subject's time-consuming nature. Its importance must not, however, be overlooked. The concluding section of this part describes the methods of examining colour vision and classifies its anomalies.

The third section is devoted to the electrophysiology of the retina and to the changes found in various pathological conditions affecting the retina and choroid. The diagnostic, prognostic, and medicolegal interests of the visually evoked response are discussed.

In the last part attention is given to the ocular adnexa. The clinical and instrumental methods of examining the extraocular muscles and their anomalies are followed by a brief description of the electrophysiology of ocular motility and of electromyography. The concluding chapter deals somewhat summarily with the examination of the lacrimal apparatus.

Although this useful book is written in French, any reader with an elementary knowledge of the language should be able to get its message and will be rewarded by a sound background knowledge of the essentials of the subject.

JAMES R. HUDSON

**Los Melanomas Uveales: Histología y Clínica.** By SERGIO BONAFONTE ROYO, ALFREDO MUINOS SIMON, RAFAEL BARRAQUER COMPTE. Pp. 189. No price given. Editorial JIMS: Barcelona. 1982.

Uveal melanomata are by far the commonest intraocular tumours encountered in general ophthalmic practice, and it is refreshing to find a clear and concise textbook devoted to the subject. From the wealth of material at the Instituto Barraquer in Barcelona the authors have compiled a superbly illustrated histopathological account of these fascinating tumours, discussing melanogenesis, aetiology, and incidence, as well as clinical features, diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis. An extensive bibliography is provided after each chapter.

My only regret is that the book is written in Spanish, but I look forward to reading the English edition, should this ever become available.

CLIVE MIGDAL

**The Actions and Uses of Ophthalmic Drugs.** 2nd edn. By P. H. O'CONNOR DAVIES. Pp. 386. £20.00. Butterworths: Sevenoaks, Kent. 1981.

Based on a series of lectures to undergraduate opticians this book will probably be of most value to this professional group with a special section on medical legislation and the ophthalmic optician.

The introductory chapters on pharmacological principles and autonomic innervation will be already familiar to medical people. The pharmacological actions of drugs are described in a reasonable order, though separate chapters on cycloplegics and mydriatics lead to reduplication. It is when the author deals with clinical uses that he not infrequently deviates from the therapy as practised by ophthalmologists. Atropine is described as being used in the treatment of acute conjunctivitis (p. 112). Ephedrine seems to be preferred for mydriasis although not mentioned in the *British National Formulary*, and it is suggested that ephedrine and homatropine be used for refraction. Physostigmine is advised after all anticholinergic drops (even tropicamide), and the obsessive repeated instruction to constrict all pupils over the age of 40 is now antiquated and may be counterproductive. The statement that it is necessary to dilate pupils after contusion fails to state that it may be dangerous in early hyphaema. Equally many surgeons will disagree with the remark that local anaesthetic is preferred for operations on the eye. No mention is made of the systemic dangers of timolol drops nor is ethambutol toxicity described in the chapter on adverse reactions from systemic medication.

In summary, some sections (especially those devoted to pharmacology) may be of use to optician students, but the discussions of a number of clinical uses are frankly misleading.

S. J. CREWS

**Analysis of Visual Behaviour.** Eds. DAVID J. INGLE, MELVYN A. GOODALE, RICHARD J. W. MANSFIELD. Pp. 834. £52.50. MIT Press: London. 1982.

Neither ophthalmology nor visual physiology is concerned with behaviour, visual or otherwise. It might be argued, therefore, that only those readers interested in neurology will be interested in this book. But this would be an erroneous view to take, since neither of the above disciplines is an end in itself, and behaviour looms beyond their respective horizons.

Not that this book makes many concessions to its multi-disciplinary roots. The nearest it seems to get to the eye is when perimetry is used. This needs stressing, as jargons and even nomenclature fail to overlap. Do you know what is meant by prosopagnosia? The index (3 double-column pages for over 800 pages of text) does not help.

Multi-author tomes are rarely organised these days, and it is not clear why important general and introductory principles enumerated in chapter 19 should be in chapter 19 rather than chapter 1. However keen one may be on *Bufo bufo*, I think I (or monkeys) deserve the more important place.

Many of the illustrations are clear and large enough to be seen by people with grave visual defects, which is true particularly of the early chapters dealing with localisation. Motor patterns and recognition processes are also detailed, though more on the retinal aspects of pattern detection would have been welcome. As might be expected, visual space is also considered. This, like optical illusions, is hampered by the lack of emphasis—if one is not to put it more harshly—on visual physiology. Overall, however, the

book gives one a valuable insight into other people's problems and is therefore welcome. When a new edition is deemed necessary, one can only hope that it will be written in English and that Latin will be used only by those who know it.

ROBERT WEALE

**Nutritional Blindness: Xerophthalmia and Keratomalacia.** By ALFRED SOMMER. Pp 282. £20.00. Oxford University Press: Oxford. 1982.

This is an exhaustive account of xerophthalmia and keratomalacia, particularly with reference to Indonesia. The importance of night blindness as a prodromal sign is emphasised, and the excellent colour photographs are very helpful to anyone unfamiliar with the condition. Some new facts about epidemiology are well presented, and so also is its prevention and treatment. Finally a large bibliography is most useful to those readers who wish to do further reading.

R. F. FISHER

## Notes

### Radiation meeting

The third annual current approaches programme on radiation oncology, radiobiology, and clinical physics will be held at the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, on 9-11 March 1983. Details from Extended Programs in Medical Education, University of California School of Medicine, Room 569-U, Third and Parnassus, San Francisco, California 94143, USA.

### Neuro-ophthalmology course

An advanced course in neuro-ophthalmology will be held on 11-15 July 1983 at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases and the Institute of Neurology, Queen Square, London. The course will include talks on optic nerve disease, eye movements, the cortex, vascular disease, and recent advances in neuro-ophthalmology. Professor Shirley H. Wray will be guest lecturer and Professor W. F. Hoyt guest discussant. Cost: £150. Closing date for applications: 30 April. Further details from Miss J. Lace, Department of Neuro-ophthalmology, National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square, London WC1N 3BG.

### Michaelson Institute

During the last 10 years Professor Isaac C. Michaelson, who died on 15 June 1982, devoted much time to setting up the Jerusalem Institute for the Prevention of Blindness. In recognition of his devotion to this work the institute has now been renamed the Michaelson Institute for the Prevention of Blindness.