

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.