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 tropicamides), 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


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. Hoy guest discussant. Cost: £150. Closing date for applications: 30 April. Further details from Miss J. Lacey, 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.