Finally, the price may range from £1000 to tens of thousands of pounds.

Faced with this choice the clinician clearly has need for a consumer guide which analyses perimeters, identifying both the procedure and possible strengths and weaknesses for each model. This the author has set out to provide; he has succeeded handsomely in his task. He is well qualified to do this, for he has a background in visual sciences with long experience in the investigation of visual performance. With A. I. Friedmann he was responsible for the development of the Friedmann analyser.

Here he traces the development of perimeters and identifies the principles involved in their design. He describes in detail most perimeters marketed today and in so doing identifies the strengths and possible weaknesses of each. The descriptions give the clinician the information necessary to decide what type of perimeter would best suit his requirements. Any ophthalmologist thinking of buying a new perimeter, particularly one of the semiautomatic ones, should first read this book.

ROGER A. HITCHINGS

The Evil Eye: A Folklore Casebook. Ed. ALAN DUNDES. Pp. 312. US\$30.00. Garland Publishing: New York. 1981.

One of the oldest and most widespread folk beliefs is that of the evil eye, which we are told can bring misfortune, ill health, and even death to its victims. The book consists of some 20 loosely strung essays and case histories from many countries and cultures, and they show a remarkable conformity in the folklore of the malevolent glance. It has been feared since the times of the Sumerians and found throughout the lands bordering the Mediterranean, the Indo-European countries, China, and Africa.

The evil eye is a channel through which malicious powers which are thought to surround us can harm certain vulnerable people. The possessor of the 'eye' is usually female and may have an obvious ocular anomaly such as a squint, crossed eyebrows, or heterochromia of the irides; but the most dangerous of all are those who outwardly appear normal. Those at risk are babies and young children, adolescents at puberty, brides, and pregnant women. The envious, proud, and those puffed up with self-esteem are also very vulnerable.

However, counter measures can be taken. Children must never be praised for their beauty or intelligence, and should this happen they should immediately be spat on. Protection by spitting is almost universal from Egypt to the Western Isles. Praise of adults, especially fulsome and undeserved praise, must be muted, as it leads to pride and fall. The custom of veiling a bride is widespread and is to protect her from envious glances. Verbal formulae, such as the 'In shalah' (if God wills) used in everyday Arabic speech, entrust the future to the Deity and not to the efforts of man. Perfection in any form is often deliberately spoiled; the weaver may make a flaw in his design and the mason leave some little defect in his stonework.

This is an engaging and scholarly work, and there is a large bibliography. It will be of great interest to anyone with a taste for the occult.

JOHN H. DOBREE

1981 Year Book of Ophthalmology. Ed WILLIAM P. HUGHES. Pp. 379. £25.00. YB Medical Publishers: London. 1982.

This book summarises the significant literature in ophthalmology to December 1981. Each section is introduced by an expert in the particular field under consideration. For orbital problems there is now a preference for computed tomography, particularly in the assessment of endocrine orbitopathy. Ultrasonography is considered the more precise indicator of tissue type, but its use is limited to diagnosis within the bony orbit. Fine-needle aspiration biopsy with the use of cytological diagnosis has been recently popularised.

In the introduction to the section on motility there is an excellent discussion on the aetiology of Duane's syndrome, which is far from settled. In the section on refraction the approval of extended-wear contact lenses for myopia has been welcomed, and auto-refractors receive a modified welcome. The differential diagnosis of superior limbic keratoconjunctivitis and papillary keratoconjunctivitis associated with contact lenses is discussed in detail in the section on the conjunctiva. A discussion on acute disease processes with an epithelial defect producing corneal thinning and perforation forms the introduction to the chapter on the cornea and sclera.

Glaucoma is introduced by 2 pages on automatic perimeters and assessment of their value. The chapter on the lens begins with a review of the factors which have proved of importance in the successful development of intraocular lens technology. In the chapter on the uvea it is pointed out that new cases of toxoplasmosis can be detected more easily by the ELISA test than by the indirect fluorescent antibody test. In the section on the vitreous, automated vitrectomy machines are discussed in regard to traumatic eye injuries, diabetic retinopathy, and rubeosis iridis. The section on the retina is introduced by a review summarising studies on the humoral and cellular immune systems in patients with retinitis pigmentosa. In the section on medical ophthalmology adverse effects of drugs in the elderly are ventilated. The last review is on tissue culture in eye research.

The whole is a worthy successor to previous editions of the *Year Book*.

STEPHEN MILLER

Note

New Afro-Asian journal

The first number of a new quarterly journal, the *Afro-Asian Journal of Ophthalmology*, appeared on 1 June 1982. It intends to publish original articles, case reports, reviews, and news items. The editors are L. P. Agarwal, S. R. K. Malik, A. K. Gupta, and P. K. Khosla. Communications should be sent to the Managing Editor, Afro-Asian Journal of Ophthalmology 16-B/22, Dev Nagar, New Delhi-110005, India.