

Robertson pupil, asteroid bodies (in children!), retinal macroaneurysms, etc., is probably asking too much. Some of the information given is erroneous, and in one chapter when the author describes the management of a child with nystagmus his lack of emphasis on the incidence of severe and life threatening disease in these children is totally inappropriate; it must surely be inappropriate for optometrists to manage any patient with nystagmus. Similarly the encouragement of optometrists to involve themselves in the diagnosis, assessment, and management of delayed development and in the selection of 'a first rate' surgeon for those of his squint patients for 'cosmetic surgery' is bordering on the ridiculous.

The shame of it is that this book has very many excellent points, but it would have benefited enormously from an infusion of common sense from a paediatrician and a paediatric ophthalmologist, if there were such to be found with sufficient self confidence and stature to associate themselves with an optometric textbook.

Each chapter is well referenced, and much of the information is up to date, but this book is not to be recommended for ophthalmologists, ophthalmic assistants, nurses, or orthoptists. An optometrist reading it selectively and supplementing it with appropriate reading and lectures from paediatric ophthalmologists and experienced senior colleagues would benefit from it if he could maintain his interest.

DAVID TAYLOR

Neuropathology of Parasitic Infections. By W. JANN BROWN and MARIETTA VOGEL. Pp. 240. £18.50. Oxford University Press: Oxford. 1982.

This small monograph describes human infestation by protozoa and helminths and puts particular emphasis on the involvement of the eye in these diseases. In spite of its title it is not only pathology that is dealt with; epidemiology, the life cycles of the parasites, and clinical diagnosis and treatment form a major part of the text.

Each chapter is concise and there are numerous and excellent light and electron micrographs, diagrams of the biological cycles of the parasites, clinical cases, and numerous examples of ocular involvement. The literature cited seems abundant and up to date.

A feature of the book is that the clinical and pathological aspects of the various diseases are not presented in a general and impersonal way as in most textbooks. Rather, the approach is through the presentation of cases. The obvious advantage is that the reader feels more involved, and interest and attention are aroused. However, I wonder whether shorter descriptions in the conventional style, leaving space for extra detailed information and more pictures, would have been more useful.

Since the book is addressed to a wide range of readers, the appendix, containing the description of staining and culture methods, as well as names and addresses of reference laboratories, will certainly be of use to those dealing with difficult cases. Moreover, the detailed description of the pathological processes in the eye that occur during infestation by many of the parasites included here makes the book useful to the specialist as well as the nonspecialist dealing with clinical and pathological problems in ophthalmology.

F. SCARAVILLI

Grenzen der konservativen Therapie, Indikationen zu operativen Eingriffen in der Augenheilkunde. By GERD MEYER-SCHWICKERATH and KLAUS ULLERICH. Pp. 200. DM 50. Ferdinand Enke Verlag: Stuttgart. 1982.

The 89th volume in the series 'Bucherei des Augenarztes' upholds the high standards set by many of the previous volumes with an elegant exercise in lateral thinking. The editors have taken a number of ophthalmic subjects in which the margins between conservative and surgical treatment are ill-defined. They have invited experts in these conditions to discuss and rationalise their therapeutic approach to the problems, and the result has been a most interesting collection of articles.

The papers derive from a clinical meeting held in Essen in 1977, and, although some of the views expressed and the procedures described are no longer contemporary, much of the work has been brought up to date. The topics range widely and include indications for surgery in trauma, malignancy, thyroid eye disease, nystagmus, and squint, and there are articles as well on photocoagulation and on investigations and surgery in children. The illustrations are of a high standard, and each of the 17 chapters is provided with an English summary—a commendable feature.

This is an informative and very readable book, and if it reflects the character of other textbooks available in the Federal Republic one cannot but envy our German ophthalmic colleagues.

T. J. FFYTCH

Documenta Ophthalmologica Proceedings Series 31. Techniques in Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision. Eds. G. NIEMEYER and CH. HUBER. Pp. 523. Dfl. 235.00. W. Junk: The Hague. 1982.

A society now known as ISCEV (International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision) was founded in Stockholm in 1961. It is a small society of only some 300 members world-wide who are mainly either ophthalmologists or visual physiologists. Since its foundation meetings have been held annually in Europe, Japan, or the United States. The published proceedings have provided an invaluable review of this complex and rapidly changing specialty. This is the report of the 19th meeting held in Zurich in 1981 and it fully maintains the standard and the value of its predecessors.

The ERG and VER are most extensively covered, as the EOG is a main topic for the next meeting. The ERG is treated under 3 headings—techniques, applications, and use in children. The use of the ERG in the classification of the tapetoretinal degenerations and the investigation of carriers has given impetus to the development of a routinely available standardised technique separating rod and cone activity. A reliable foveal and pattern ERG system promises to be of great value in the investigation of macular disease and visual loss.

The ERG and EOG are generally accepted to be part of ophthalmology. The VER is but one of several sensory evoked changes in the EEG. Thus electroencephalographers have an established interest, and it is widely used in neurology, otology, and paediatrics. There is a vast amount of work on the psychological aspects of the responses.