

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.

especially the VER. Thus the response may be influenced by the patient's mood as well as the state of the sensory channel. As with the ERG the techniques, stimulus parameters, and the use in children are reviewed. Higher visual centres, including binocular vision, may also be investigated. It is sadly evident that many investigators are unaware of the established clinical concepts of simultaneous perception, fusion, and stereopsis. Much of the treatment is mathematical. The genius who is able to explain to the clinician the application of Fourier analysis to a nonlinear multichannel system has yet to publish.

This is not the book for the clinician looking either for easy reading or an authoritative review. The former may never appear and the latter is awaited. It is an invaluable source of information and with the previous 18 volumes an essential part of any ophthalmic library. Anyone interested in this field can do only one thing better than looking through this volume and that is to join the society. The book then comes free.

J. H. KELSEY

The Complete Medical Consultant. By A. H. OSMOND. Pp. 114. £7.00. H. K. Lewis: London. 1982.

The author declares that this work is mainly intended for medical students contemplating their future, but it should be added that the book also has much to say to the newly appointed consultant and even to the established professional. In a way this little book simply states the obvious, and yet as one turns its pages one is forced to accept that much of its material, which bears so directly upon many vital aspects of successful professional life, is by no means always capable of obvious definition. Therefore the identification and analysis of so varied a collection of possible stumbling blocks in the path of the consultant's progress through his professional life, and by so understanding an author, will undoubtedly give valuable insight to the uninitiated, whether as student or as young consultant on the threshold.

Despite his prolonged professional training, nowhere in the curriculum is the trainee likely to have received much help in the many practical matters touched upon in this book. Much sound, if avuncular, advice is offered on topics as varied as the choice of house from which to practise (including spouse with whom to share it) on the one hand, to public speaking on the other. All of it is directed towards the maintenance of the highest standards in professional life, so that the consultant may the better serve his patients and thereby fulfil himself. The book is therefore recommended to a wide readership.

J. WINSTANLEY

The Secondary Glaucomas. By ROBERT RITCH and M. BRUCE SHIELDS. Pp. 429. £39.25. C. V. Mosby: London. 1982.

Textbooks on glaucoma and glaucoma teaching in general have tended to concentrate on the problems posed by the primary glaucomas. As a result the student may be misled into thinking the secondary glaucomas are an unimportant extra in the specialty, one of a list of complications arising from a disease process or an unwanted side effect following a form of treatment. Although less common than primary glaucoma, these diseases can be the most difficult of all glaucomas to treat. There has clearly been need for the

secondary glaucomas to be collected together under one roof, when their multiplicity and extraordinary variations can be seen and appreciated.

This the editors have set out to do—and succeeded in their task. They have collected together a group of writers, known for their expertise with a particular type of secondary glaucoma, and asked them to describe their experiences. The book is prefaced with a chapter on 'Classification and mechanisms' to give an embrace to all the following chapters. The whole is written in that uncluttered prose that characterises American medical writing. For any ophthalmologist wishing to learn more about secondary glaucomas this book is a must.

ROGER A. HITCHINGS

The World's Eye. By ALBERT M. POTTS. Pp. 93. US\$21.50. University Press of Kentucky: Lexington, USA. 1982.

To only a limited band of recent sophisticates has a study of the eye suggested the ophthalmology we all know and practise. To the world at large it is a symbol of God, truth, sex, and a host of other half-articulated hopes and fears.

This handsome book seeks to explain how wonder and the primitive mind have endowed the eye with such special properties. To some extent it is a guided tour through the labyrinth of prehistoric artefacts and records, and through the folklore of yesterday and today, with the interpretations of the Jungian analyst always in the wings.

In that dark jungle of ancient (and modern) mysteries we could soon become lost and dispirited. But the book is primarily about the eye as it is depicted (and the illustrations are both excellent and voluminous). It is about the associated patterns of symbolism rather than about anthropology or psychiatry; and although sex lurks throughout the panorama it provides is exhilarating.

P. D. TREVOR-ROPER

Progress in Clinical and Biological Research. Vol. 82. **Clinical, Structural, and Biochemical Advances in Hereditary Eye Disorders.** Ed. DONNA L. DAENTL. Pp. 172. £25.90. Alan R. Liss: New York. 1982.

Recent advances in clinical genetics have resulted in a number of symposia being dedicated to particular specialties. This is the report of such a symposium of the Society of Craniofacial Genetics, and it covers a number of topics of interest to ophthalmologists.

The first 3 papers are concerned with various aspects of ocular development in birds and in man. The importance of neural crest cells in the development of ocular tissues, supplanting mesoderm as the major mesenchymal component, is an important advance in our understanding of this topic, as is the contribution of the extracellular matrix, which influences the migration of these cells. The material in these papers is not easy for ophthalmologists to find elsewhere and for those interested in these aspects of the subject is useful reading.

These are followed by several short reviews on connective tissue diseases, macular corneal dystrophy, conjunctival biopsy in lysosomal disorders, and gyrate atrophy. Each is succinct, up to date, and easy to read, available elsewhere