

Book reviews

Decker, Deller, Fells, Frosini, Kaufman, Koornneef, and Pechereau, who all gave interesting answers (depending on their experience) to the various questions put to them.

This book is of considerable interest and of practical value.

T. KEITH LYLE

A Study Guide for Glaucoma. Ed. M. BRUCE SHIELDS. Pp. 544. £44.75. Williams and Wilkins: London. 1982.

This book edited by Dr Shields has no fewer than 24 doctors as authors. Its 35 chapters are presented in 3 sections: the basic features of glaucoma, clinical forms of glaucoma, and the pharmacology and surgery for glaucoma.

Of a good academic standard and profusely referenced, the book is excellently illustrated with clear line drawings throughout. These drawings are particularly impressive because they can illustrate specific points very much better than the glossy photographs which one is accustomed to see in new textbooks. Every possible aspect of the subject has been adequately covered and one could almost call this an 'encyclopaedia' of glaucoma rather than just a 'study guide'.

The book can be highly recommended both for mature ophthalmologists and for those studying for higher examinations; its wealth of references is particularly useful. The editor, authors, and illustrator are all to be highly commended for this valuable addition to ophthalmology.

REDMOND J. H. SMITH

Medikamentöse Augentherapie. By PAUL U. FECHNER and KLAUS D. TEICHMANN. Pp. 270. DM 88. Ferdinand Enke Verlag: Stuttgart. 1982.

It is natural that a reviewer in this country should compare foreign textbooks with their British counterparts, and once in a while one comes across a book that is enviably superior in its field to anything produced in the English language. This handbook of ocular therapeutics is a prime example and is to be highly recommended.

The authors have provided a comprehensive survey of ocular diseases that require medical rather than surgical therapy, and the available forms of treatment are listed. Each condition is described briefly, and the pathogenesis and medical management are discussed and references quoted where appropriate. The book includes sections on the commonly used ophthalmic drugs together with their indications and side effects. Some of the drugs recommended are not generally known in Britain and several are homeopathic. This serves to emphasise that there are still differences between the approach to eye disease in various European countries—something that English ophthalmologists should not ignore. For the practising ophthalmologist and the trainee this is a most useful book, and provided it is kept up to date it should be essential reading. An English translation would be very welcome.

T. J. FFYTCH

Ophthalmic Photography. Ed. JOHNNY JUSTICE, JR. Pp. 277. US\$31.75. Little, Brown: Boston. 1982.

Twenty-five chapters by various authors are compressed into this small volume under the editorship of Johnny

Justice Jr. Two contributions are from Japan and the remainder from the USA. Black-and-white illustrations are used throughout, which no doubt help to hold down the cost. The book attempts to give a complete account of all photographic methods relevant to the eye from simple routine anterior segment photography to advanced research techniques. Recent techniques, such as specular microscopy of the corneal endothelium and anterior segment angiography, are well described. The book fails to cover other advanced measurement techniques, such as photogrammetry of the optic disc and slit-image photographic measurement of the anterior chamber and lens. Without going into these rather esoteric techniques it would at least be useful to have chapters on the photographic recording of the optic disc in the management of glaucoma. It is possible that these techniques have been omitted because there are no contributions from European authors. Photokeratometry is mentioned only in the historical section, but perhaps deserves more attention, since it is now in routine use in measuring the cornea for contact lenses.

In spite of these reservations this is a book to be recommended to any ophthalmic photographer in training or to any ophthalmologist wishing to use photography for clinical or for research purposes.

NICHOLAS PHELPS BROWN

Problems in Ophthalmology. By MICHAEL GLASSPOOL. Pp. 141. £7.95. MTP Press: 1982.

This book is one of the 'Problems in Practice Series' of which there are 10 other subject titles and a series index volume. It is directed towards general practitioners, with a forward by the president of their Royal College. It achieves its aim clearly and is well laid out. The author has considerable experience in successfully putting over the complexities of terminology used by ophthalmologists to the GP and bringing the common sense approach to bear on the speciality.

There are 11 chapter headings, of which the first 2 are 'History' and 'Examination,' both of which if read and digested would give many readers more insight into ophthalmology. There is a clear and simple exposition of the mysteries of assessing visual acuity and the nomenclature. The importance of visual loss, requiring immediate referral, cannot be too highly stressed. The cover test is clearly described and illustrated.

The next chapter discusses the red eye, and the emphasis is on differentiating the various conditions that should be referred to specialists, with commendable stress on the dangers of inappropriate initial treatment. 'The external eye' is followed by 'The internal eye.' The illustrations are in general clear and excellent and, being mainly photographs, are realistic. The artist's painting of a retinal detachment is an exception to this, as are the drawings of cataract changes seen silhouetted against the red reflex.

The chapters on 'Sudden loss of vision' and 'Slow loss of vision' between them describe 10 of the most common diagnoses encountered in the outpatient department, and the only anxiety is that any GP keen enough to follow the otherwise excellent diagrams illustrating the evolution of the field changes in chronic glaucoma will be confused by the use of 'combined' charts. The outline of the blind spot for central-field-only charting is inappropriately included