

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 homoeopathic. 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

where these charts are used for the whole field. In the management of the condition the common problem of the patient who sees no benefit from his diligent treatment is clearly related to the prophylactic nature of such treatment.

Sections on 'Trauma,' 'Paediatric ophthalmology,' and 'The eye in systemic diseases' follow and cover a useful range of conditions that the GP will meet. A final chapter on 'Ocular pharmacology' has a section on the instructions to be given to patients on how to instil drops and ointment. It ends with a list of drugs giving many useful generic and trade names of both UK and USA origin.

In view of the many ophthalmic problems that present to the GP, an evening or two spent perusing this volume will, I am sure, increase his understanding of them. It will also enable him to understand better and discuss with his patients more readily any report from an ophthalmologist. The student will also find it a valuable addition to his library.

DAVID V. INGRAM

Notes

Glaucoma Group Research Grant (GGRG)

This grant, sponsored by International Glaucoma Association, is available to medical graduates and non-medical scientists resident in the United Kingdom or Eire. A sum of £2000 will be available for a research project on glaucoma, preferably clinically orientated, for 1983. The grant may be held concurrently with other awards. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae with information on their research project to Dr S. Nagasubramanian, Glaucoma Group Secretary, Glaucoma Unit (1st Floor), Moorfields Eye Hospital, High Holborn, London WC1V 7AN. The closing date for the award is 15 October 1983, and the successful candidate will be informed by November 1983.

Professor M. Ruben

On 26 October a symposium will be held to honour Professor Montague Ruben on the occasion of his resignation from Moorfields Eye Hospital. The day is being divided into 2 topics with which Professor Ruben has been closely involved—keratoconus and contact lens solutions. An international group of speakers has been invited to participate. The symposium is to be held at the City University, and a limited number of tickets is available. The funding of the symposium has been met by contact lens manufacturers, and a buffet lunch is being provided free of charge to all ticket holders. Tickets will be available on written application (with stamped addressed envelope) to the Research Secretary, Department of Contact Lenses and Prosthetics, Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PD.

Glaucoma Congress

The 2nd Congress of the European Glaucoma Society will be held in Helsinki, Finland, on 18-20 May 1984 at Rantasipi

Hyvinkää, PL 43, 05801 Hyvinkää 10, Finland. Information on the scientific programme available from Dr E. L. Greve, Academic Medical Center, Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands. There will be invited papers, free papers, a poster session, and adequate time for discussion. The language is English and the deadline for papers is 1 November 1983.

Ophthalmic Pathology Society

The European Ophthalmic Pathology Society held its Annual Meeting in Groningen, Holland, on 17-20 May 1982. Professor Daniel M. Albert (Boston, USA) was the guest of honour. The scientific programme included 35 presentations by members and guests, and 17 countries were represented. For each presentation a protocol, histopathological sections, and appropriate clinical, and macroscopic transparencies and electron microscopic prints were provided. The majority of the case presentations dealt with primary and secondary tumours of the eye and the orbit. The remainder dealt with anomalies of the eye, inflammatory ocular diseases, and degenerative tissue reactions. The next meeting will be held in Rome, and Professor E. Balestrazzi will act as Organizing Secretary.

Electrophysiology of vision

The XXII Symposium of the International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision will be held at the Grand Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden, on 28-31 May 1984. Main themes: (1) electrophysiology in hereditary degenerations of the ocular fundus and the visual pathways; (2) interactions between the retina and the pigment epithelium. Further information from Professor Sven Erik Nilsson, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Linköping, S-581 85 Linköping, Sweden.

Epidemiology of eye diseases

Newly published information on eye disease epidemiology is available from the National Eye Institute (NEI). Included are papers on the following eye disorders: senile macular degeneration, amblyopia, open-angle glaucoma, cataract, diabetic retinopathy, and ocular melanoma. The information was presented in June 1982 at an NEI Symposium on Eye Disease Epidemiology, after which 13 papers were selected for publication in the August 1983 issue of the *American Journal of Epidemiology*. One or more copies of this issue of the *AJE* are available on request to Richard L. Mowery, DPH, Office of Biometry and Epidemiology, National Eye Institute, Building 31, Room 6A24, Bethesda, MD 20205, USA.

Contact lens fitting

The 24th annual instructional course in contact lens fitting of the Rudolph Ellender Medical Foundation will be held on 24-26 May 1984 at the Fairmont Hotel, New Orleans, LA, USA.