Book reviews

from the largely underused clinical material available in this largest of all diabetic clinics. L'Esperance's chapter is clear, careful, and well balanced. The one on vitreous fluorophotometry lacks criticism of both methods and results.

There is probably a little more emphasis on blood elements, as primary pathogenic mechanisms, than warranted from available evidence, but it is less than previously, and even Little concludes that they are probably 'contributory.' Colwell in his chapter on platelets starts with the endothelial cell, a much more likely candidate as the primary culprit in the evolution of retinopathy. The account of new work on renal and pancreatic transplants is welcome. The sections on carbohydrate metabolism and growth hormone, however, are already out of date because of the rapid advance in the field. The one patient who seemed to improve with continuous insulin is well represented in two separate chapters (16 and 17) by the same pictures. To established ophthalmologists, the chapters on photocoagulation and vitrectomy are probably not new, but those entering the field could not do better than read them. Indeed this book should be read by all interested in the problem of diabetic retinopathy.

EVA KOHNER

A Colour Atlas of Clinical Neurology. By MALCOLM PARSONS. Pp. 216. £35.00. Wolfe Medical Publications: London 1983.

This compact book is a useful and pleasant way for the practising ophthalmologist to brush up his neurology. The aim is to help senior students. Indeed their interest will be sustained by an exceptional collection of clinical colour slides. These are supported by x-rays, CT scans, and other investigative procedures and where indicated pathological specimens. The teaching content is so good that Fellowship candidates would benefit greatly. Each subject is introduced by a few general remarks and occasional references. The complicated neurological pathways are simplified by excellent line drawings. The ophthalmologist will be particularly concerned with about a quarter of the book dealing with the upper cranial nerves, parasellar region, and cerebral cortex.

The information contained is accurate and useful, though it seems amazing that, with so many forms of nystagmus of diagnostic value, the only one listed in the index is ataxic nystagmus, which has now been rendered obsolete in neuro-ophthalmology textbooks. Similarly the nucleus of Perlia has been resurrected for the section on the pupil. These minor errors, however, do not detract from this being an enjoyable, well produced book which will up-date the average ophthalmologist's concept of neurology. The author is to be congratulated on assimilating this vast collection of material and informing us all that Henry III and his son Edward I both had a left ptosis of a congenital nature.

M. D. SANDERS

Drug-Induced Ocular Side Effects and Drug Interactions. 2nd Edn. By F. T. FRAUNFELDER. Pp. 544. US\$33.00. Lea and Febiger: Philadelphia. 1982.

This book has now been reissued as a 2nd edition and is designed as a reference volume for the busy ophthalmolo-

gist. The term side effects includes all probable and possible adverse reactions, some of which are unproved reports to the National Register in the United States. It is in the main restricted to ocular side effects with little mention of systemic reactions from topical medication. However, also included are possible interactions with systemic drugs the patient is receiving, which makes for an unbalanced approach. For example, 20 adverse reactions to the eye are described with ethiothiopyate iodide (Phospholine) but only brief mention of the systemic reactions because this topic is outside the scope of the book.

In general there tends to be a long list of probable and possible ocular side effects and then a useful section on clinical significance to put this into perspective. However, possible drug interactions are quoted merely with an indication of an increase or reduction of activity, but no real explanation of clinical significance is given. Asthma and cardiopulmonary problems are listed as contraindications to timolol drops, but these are put under a heading of interactions with other drugs. Again, because of the book's limited scope the systemic adverse reactions to acetazolamide are mentioned in 2 brief sentences without any details.

As expected, the drugs included reflect the different pattern of prescribing in the United States of America. Certain drugs are not available in the United Kingdom (e.g., Dipivefrin) and some used here, such as sodium cromoglycate, are not mentioned in the book. One senses that part of the thinking behind this book reflects the increasing litigation in the United States. The order followed in this volume does not follow any usual pharmacological one. For example, guttae adrenaline appears under vasopressor drugs, miotic drops are 'drugs primarily used in ophthalmology,' and guanethidine drops come under antihypertensive agents. There is a valuable index of drugs at the end preceded by an index of side effects. Each section includes some key references. In summary, this is a useful updating of a valuable reference book, though because of its scope it presents a somewhat unbalanced viewpoint.

S. J. CREWS

Retinal Detachment and Allied Diseases. Vols. 1 and 2. By CHARLES L. SCHEPENS. Pp. 1155. £80.00 each. W. B. Saunders: London. 1983.

The writing of these 2 large volumes by Charles M. Schepens is a remarkable achievement by an author whose name has become a household word in the field of retinal surgery and who over the course of 40 years has seen all the major changes of modern retinal surgery unfold.

The subject is systematically approached. In volume I history and terminology are succeeded by basic considerations: examination, differential diagnosis, and medical management of the patient; general considerations about surgical treatment; and finally in part 5 of volume I recommended surgical techniques. Volume II is concerned with complex and unusual cases, vitreous surgery, complications, prophylaxis, and new and improved procedures. The volumes have been beautifully produced, and the illustrations are of high quality.

The introduction itself gives a key to the style of the work, and this magnum opus represents the author's personal