

experience of retinal surgery over a period of 40 years. Historically it represents the way vitreoretinal surgery has evolved under the author's leadership at the Boston Retina Foundation, and the reader will be reminded of the many techniques that are favoured by that school. Techniques developed in other centres are given little attention, and therefore one was not surprised to find as much space given to the description of diathermy techniques as to cryotherapy. Scleral dissection techniques and the encircling procedure are favoured in most situations. Little favour is found with non-drainage surgery. There is an enormous amount of useful well illustrated clinical information with a good bibliography to teach the apprentice retinal surgeon. There are also many anecdotal comments that are particularly interesting.

Few ophthalmologists in this country will find themselves buying this book because of the price, but it will certainly form a useful addition to most ophthalmic libraries.

A. H. CHIGNELL

Uveitis: Pathophysiology and Therapy. Eds. ELLEN KRAUS-MACKIOW and G. RICHARD O'CONNOR. Pp. 245. DM.68.00. Georg Thieme: Stuttgart. 1983.

This small book is written by American and German authors (from Kiel and Heidelberg Universities) with one contribution from Britain. It consists of seven chapters and starts with a general review of immunology, followed by review chapters on microbiology in uveitis, endogenous uveitis, exogenous uveitis, pathology of uveitis, therapy, and a review of present status of immunology in anterior uveitis.

I think the purpose of the book is to provide a current review of selected topics for those with a special interest in uveitis. Each chapter is well written and the black-and-white illustrations are of good quality. Useful lists of comprehensive references are given with each chapter. I found the chapter on endogenous uveitis, which provides a vignette of about a page or two on the clinical manifestations, pathology, appropriate investigations, and future diagnostic possibilities of a wide variety of different uveitic syndromes, to be excellent. It provides a useful and concise account of many of the more unusual causes of uveitis such as leprosy, brucella, or onchocerciasis, which is an excellent reference for clinicians who have to investigate the occasional case. The present state of knowledge of the pathogenesis and immunology of more common conditions, such as herpes zoster or simplex, is well reviewed and brought up to date, and the likely road which future advances will take is indicated.

The chapter on exogenous uveitis is a review of the clinical and experimental findings in sympathetic uveitis, and the chapter on therapy is practical but naturally contains little innovation. As a clinician I found the chapters

on pathology and the current understanding of the immunology of anterior uveitis to be the highlights of the book. They are well written and provide much information on current basic research which is difficult to obtain from reading clinical journals. This work is clearly and logically interpreted and leaves the reader with a sense of satisfaction.

As a review this book will inevitably go out of date, but it is to be recommended for anyone with an interest in uveitis.

D. J. SPALTON

Cosmetic Oculoplastic Surgery. By ALLEN PUTTERMAN. Pp. 327. US\$64.50. Grune and Stratton: New York. 1982.

This is a very comprehensive text of how the principal author manages cosmetic oculoplastic surgery. He has written all the major surgical chapters himself and has enlisted the aid of colleagues for the ancillary chapters. He has, however, kept a very firm control over these separate presentations by summarising the main points of each chapter in an opening precis in which he states what he thinks is important as well as where he disagrees with what has been written. This lay-out ensures a remarkable degree of uniformity in this multiauthor book. It is enhanced by the excellent diagrams, all by the same artist, which are without exception of the highest quality.

The topics covered include a history of blepharoplasty, which started as a technique very similar to the 'pinch technique' described later in the book by Crowell Beard. There are expected chapters on eyelid anatomy, evaluation, and selection of patients for the appropriate procedure, as well as the procedures themselves, which include upper and lower eyelid blepharoplasty, the surgery of brow ptosis, and the correction of complications. In addition there are chapters on the psychiatric issues involved, dermatopathology, photography, anaesthesia, chemexfoliation, and corrective eyelid make-up.

Inevitably in any book which describes surgical techniques there will be differences of opinion on the fine points of the techniques themselves and on their indications. The principal author prefers a lower lid skin flap blepharoplasty rather than a skin and muscle flap, and a higher incidence of complications is reported with the skin and muscle flap. Lower lid fat is excised by opening the whole length of the orbicularis muscle just above the orbital rim. He uses the conjunctival approach primarily in those patients requiring a graft to lengthen their lower lid retractors. In the chapter on the complications of lower lid blepharoplasty, ear cartilage grafts are recommended for the correction of severe lower lid retraction. All these points are controversial. Nevertheless the book does provide a very clear and detailed account of how cosmetic oculoplastic surgery can be successfully performed, and with the excellent diagrams it is extremely easy to read.

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