

for this slim volume. Dedicated to the memory of Dr Frank B. Walsh, this volume will enlighten all those whose practice includes a fair amount of paediatric work. M. SANDERS

**Festschrift Jules François: Retinal and Chorioretinal Pathology.** Ed. A. NEETENS. Pp. 152. Dfl.100.00. Aeolus Press: Amsterdam. 1983.

Baron Jules François has been honoured, as is most appropriate, in this little volume which records the symposium held to celebrate his 75th birthday. The tribute by Professor Neetens and the address of the rector of the University of Antwerp, Dr Clara, express beautifully the sentiments of colleagues the world over towards Jules François, and demand to be read in the original.

The subjects chosen for the symposium reflect the wide interests of our honoured colleague, and indeed a number of them have references to his own work in the various subjects. The authors of the papers have been chosen with equal care, and their presentations provide the reader with current information on their selected topics and give many references for further study.

Celebrations such as this symposium are rare, and the Festschrift provides an outstanding report of the occasion.

JAMES R. HUDSON

**Mikrostrabismus.** By JOSEPH LANG. Pp. 150. DM 44. Ferdinand Enke Verlag: Stuttgart. 1982.

Volume 62 of the on-going series 'Bucherei des Augenarztes' consists of a comprehensive monograph on the subject of mikrostrabismus. The author discusses the clinical manifestations together with the investigation and treatment of this important but often overlooked condition. There are reports from a series of 120 children with primary convergent mikrostrabismus, and in at least 40 of these there was evidence of genetic transmission of the defect. The extensive references make this a useful book for those with an interest in the management of all forms of squint.

T. J. FFYTCH

**Walsh and Hoyt's Clinical Neuro-Ophthalmology.** 4th edn. Vol. 1. By NEIL R. MILLER. Pp. 381. £41.00. Williams and Wilkins: London. 1982.

The latest edition of a classical textbook is always an occasion for celebration. Frank Walsh initiated *Clinical Neuro-Ophthalmology* in 1947, and in 1969 the third edition was produced in three volumes with the added expertise of Professor W. F. Hoyt; this comprehensive work has presented the subject to ophthalmologists and neurologists for over 10 years. Neil R. Miller, associate professor at the Johns Hopkins, aided by modern computer technology has now produced the first volume of the fourth edition, which deals with the visual sensory system and the optic nerve.

Section I on the visual sensory system is notable for the detailed anatomical descriptions of the visual system from the retinal photoreceptors to the cerebral cortex. The main joy to the reader is the inclusion of numerous electron microscopic pictures from the work of Dr Harry Quigley. The scanning electron micrographs of the vasculature of the optic disc and lamina cribrosa demonstrate better than any

previous diagrams the intricacy and complexity of these structures. Axoplasmic transport is considered in some detail, and neuronal topography is realigned on the latest experimental evidence derived from the transport of radioactive aminoacids. A review of the recent work on receptive field patterns is appropriate in view of the recognition afforded this subject by the Nobel Committee in 1982.

These mini introductory chapters are concerned with embryology, followed by the anatomy and physiology of the retina extending backwards systematically to the striate cortex. This is followed by a review of the features that are important in the topical diagnosis of lesions of the chiasm, tracts, and radiations, and finally central disorders of visual integration are reviewed.

Section II is devoted to the optic nerve. The first chapter is on papilloedema, which includes fundus photographs, fluorescein angiograms, and the histological and electron microscopic appearances. An impressive bibliography includes 410 references for this chapter. This pattern is followed throughout the book, and because the author is a proponent of the differentiation between anterior and posterior optic nerve disease entities he tends to have numerous very short chapters. Indeed there are 11 chapters comprising only 100 pages concerned with anterior and retrobulbar optic neuropathies, anterior and retrobulbar ischaemic optic neuropathies, and compressive optic neuropathies with and without disc swelling. This complicated subdivision may not simplify the subject to the inexperienced neuro-ophthalmologist, and indeed one wonders whether the same neurone can be divided so precisely on clinical grounds alone. A terminological dichotomy has been produced between clinical features and histological localisation which time will inevitably resolve. The section on anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy is excellent, but one wonders why papillophlebitis is included in this section, and the further inclusion of 'central retinal artery occlusion as a special form of ischaemic optic neuropathy' needs logical justification. This is followed by a four-page chapter on retrobulbar ischaemic optic neuropathy. The clinical diagnosis is made infrequently and with great trepidation by most neuro-ophthalmologists, hence this chapter includes an assortment of various vasculitides, tumoural infarction, trauma, radiation, optochiasmatic arachnoiditis, and amyloidosis.

This volume will continue as the main source of information for ophthalmologists and neurologists in the 1980s. It provides an immense and up-to-date bibliography, aided by an increased number of photographs and diagrams. Our congratulations and admiration should be extended to the author for performing this time-consuming task. However some sacrifices have been made, and the style is less readable and less critical, and the emphasis of the text is often orientated towards a new contribution rather than the critical appraisal of that contribution to the subject as a whole. It is a shame that glossy paper was not used to enhance the photographs, and it saddened this reader to find that the fundus photograph of early papilloedema in all its magnificence was exposed so irreverently on its side.

Despite these minor criticisms ophthalmologists, neurologists, and all libraries will be comforted to have this latest magnum opus on their shelves and await the ensuing volumes with anticipation.

M. D. SANDERS