end has recently multiplied, possibly owing to the widespread desire for further knowledge engendered among lay persons by the media. The present work covers the topic in an interesting and readable manner, and, while there are matters of emphasis with which there will always be some debate, the majority of topics are well and accurately covered. It is unlikely that the practising ophthalmologist will find himself at odds with what is stated. The language is appropriately non-technical, though the old difficulty of analogies of eyes with cameras, in this case a television camera, arises because one wonders in fact how many lay people do know how a camera works, let alone an electronic one.

Certainly this reviewer would be very happy to know that his patients had read this book, and perhaps even happier if he could be sure that the general practitioner and primary health care personnel had also done so.

M J GILKES


This concise textbook of 363 pages provides an excellent basic introduction to ophthalmology. Despite its relatively small size it contains an immense amount of ophthalmic information, presented in a lucid and succinct manner and in an eminently readable form. The book is well organised, with introductory chapters on ocular and adnexal anatomy and physiology. Succeeding chapters systematically describe diseases of the various components of the eye, the ocular adnexae, and the orbit. Chapters are also devoted to glaucoma, strabismus, and disorders of the visual pathways, and useful sections are included on the eye and systemic disease and rehabilitation of the blind.

The information is clearly and logically presented and superbly illustrated by a wealth of line diagrams, schematic representations, and black-and-white photographs of quite exceptional quality. In addition, there are 73 colour figures which illustrate key ophthalmic disorders and occasionally form part of very informative and pertinent case presentations. The ophthalmic information is up to date, and modern therapeutic options and modalities are included in most chapters. Each chapter is followed by a short summary, and, although this is useful to some degree, there is considerable duplication of information, which is probably unnecessary in a book of this size.

In my opinion this is one of the best introductory ophthalmic textbooks and is ideally suited to medical students and those entering specialty training in ophthalmology. It is also enthusiastically recommended for general practitioners or physicians wishing to update their knowledge on current ophthalmic practice.

DESMOND BARCHER


Some of the simplest things give the greatest pleasure, and messages written in simple fashion tend to be more powerful. This little book for small children deals with the emotional problems of a young rabbit who has to wear glasses. It is based on the premise that children who are myopic and do not have to wear glasses tend to be clumsy and unpopular, whereas once they wear glasses the world is all the better for them. As most ophthalmologists know, very many spectacles are inappropriately prescribed for children and often are only necessary for use in the classroom and only rarely for continual use. Clumsiness can rarely be ascribed to myopia.

While some of the rabbits drawn in the book looked like rabbits, the unfortunate victim rabbit, Cromwell, who is to have to wear glasses, had a bifid face (as did several of his relatives), and I suspect that this is the clue to the underlying brain malformation which accounted for the clumsiness and visual defect rather than a need for glasses.

The book is harmless, quite amusing, but not exactly a must for every paediatric ophthalmologist to have on the shelf of his waiting room.

DAVID TAYLOR


This monumental work gives an authoritative, clear account of the types of virus that affect the eye, their structure, and the laboratory techniques used in their detection. There is a good account of the clinical conditions produced by the different viruses, and a comprehensive discussion of the possible mechanism by which the different clinical signs have been caused and the management of each clinical entity. The in-depth discussion of the relevant literature is interesting, unbiased, and highly informative.

The main criticism of the book is that, with such a detailed text, it is sometimes difficult to isolate the relevant facts and obtain a clear concept of the management of a particular disease. This problem could have been overcome by the use of tables of clinical signs and their management, and a summary at the end of each chapter.

There are one or two omissions or small criticisms. For instance in herpes simplex infection the text does not tell how to distinguish between active herpes simplex corneal ulceration and the breakdown of an inert ulcer to cause a recurrent erosion. The management of these two clinical conditions is entirely different. These, though, are minor points and do not detract from the overall excellence of the book. It is well written, highly informative, and should be on the shelves of all eye hospitals, libraries, available to anybody with an interest in ocular infection. It is highly recommended.

JAMES I. MCGILL


This paperback book is described as for the general practitioner and medical student and as an introduction to ophthalmology residents beginning in the specialty. Seventeen chapters by 12 different authors cover the topics of embryology and anatomy, clinical examination, squint, refractive errors, glaucoma, red eye, sudden loss of vision,