

## Book reviews

**Basic and Advanced Vitreous Surgery.** Eds. G BLANKENSHIP, S BINDER, M GONVERS, M STIRPE. Pp 419. DM 175. Springer-Verlag: Heidelberg. 1986.

The proceedings of a vitreous surgery course held in Rome in 1984 in memory of Dr G B Bietti have been published as the second volume in the Fidia research series which aims to promote 'rapid and worldwide dissemination of up-to-date interdisciplinary data'. Notwithstanding the failure of the book to meet these lofty aspirations, together with its somewhat pretentious title, there are nevertheless some rather readable reviews and vignettes from an international cast of participants which make this a very pleasant vitreoretinal tome in which to browse. DAVID MCLEOD

**Manual of Common Ophthalmic Surgical Procedures.**

Edited by CHARLES D PHELPS. Pp. 189. £33.00. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1986.

This book, as the name suggests, is a compilation of basic surgical techniques, written by 16 ophthalmologists who have trained or at present work at the University of Iowa. Each surgical procedure is briefly introduced and an outline of its goals and principles, its preoperative management, and the preferred type of anaesthetic given. The reader is then guided through each operation in a detailed step-by-step fashion, and given the benefit of the authors' personal preferences and of practical 'pearls'. Most of the text is accompanied by excellent line drawings. These, however, vary in number from 22 in one chapter ('Penetrating keratoplasty'), to none at all in another ('Lens procedures').

My only criticism is that in most chapters, there is no mention of alternative surgical approaches or of the management of complications. All in all there is no doubt that this is a very useful book, and being reasonably priced it should be at hand for every ophthalmologist in training.

Z J GREGOR

**Ophthalmic Microsurgery: Instrumentation, Microscopes, Technique.** By J DRAEGER. Pp. 184. £67.50. Karger: Basel, Switzerland. 1987.

This book gives a comprehensive account of the development and use of equipment specifically designed for intraocular surgery. Technical aspects—for example, the solving of problems in introducing microsurgery and laser surgery to the posterior segment—are given added clarity by detailed illustrations and diagrams. The author himself has experience in the field of microsurgery stretching for more than 25 years. It is therefore an authoritative book and is written with the help of other specialists to cover such sections as the management of proliferative vitreoretinopathy.

It is not essential reading for the average ophthalmic surgeon, but for those with responsibility for setting up operating departments or for those with a special interest in some of the modern gadgetry that is now available the book will be found to be most rewarding. S P B PERCIVAL

## Note

### What's new?

The New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology will hold its 37th Annual Symposium on 'What's new in ophthalmology?' on 20–22 February 1988 at the Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, USA. Details from Emily Busby, Executive Secretary, New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, 145 Elk Place, Room 203, New Orleans, LA 70112, USA.

### Correction

Associate Professor W S Hunter informs us that his initials should have been printed as shown here and not as in the title of the paper by R G Devenyi, G E Trope, and W H Hunter, *Br J Ophthalmol* 1987; **71**: 441–4.