Retinal Detachment: A Colour Manual of Diagnosis and Treatment. By JACK J KANSKI. Pp. 161. £29·50. Butterworth: Sevenoaks, Kent. 1986.

The 10 chapters of this book have a fast and punchy presentation characteristic of the author's style. There are numerous helpful lists in the text, which is highlighted by boxed notes and linked by explanatory paragraphs. Although not specifically referred to in the text there are ample end-of-chapter references for further reading. There is an immensely satisfactory index for quick reference.

The book is beautifully laid out and the production is of exceptional quality. The style of presentation is particularly effective in certain parts of the book. Thus I especially liked the section devoted to examination of the retina, where the current principles of technique are very well described. Conversely, in this type of presentation it is sometimes difficult to produce adequate explanation of principles which are going to influence the choice of treatment. For example, although there is description of periretinal membranes, it is hard for the reader to decide how the presence of these membranes, by their effect on the retina to which they are intimately related, affects the management of the retinal detachment. From a purely factual point of view I found that comments about the role of vitrectomy in retinal detachment surgery, aphakic detachment, and uses of intraocular air are unsatisfactory. There are a few inaccuracies—for example, macular tears are exceptionally rare, and snail-track and lattice degeneration are rarely found together.

I think that the use of ultrasonography might have been mentioned, particularly in relationship to its role in the diagnosis and character of retinal detachment when there are opacities in the media of either a transient (e.g., vitreous haemorrhage) or permanent nature (e.g. cataract). The pictures by Tarrant are of a superb standard, although I did not, for example, consider that the illustrations of subretinal fibrosis and traction detachment were typical examples. In the main the colour photographs in the operative section were also excellent. It is nice to see a mention of some of the modern problems confronting the retinal surgeon. For example, there were useful hints on the management of detachment in the presence of intraocular lenses.

All in all this is a splendid book, and it is packed full of gems of knowledge. It is particularly suited for training ophthalmologists reading for an examination and, with its large number of colour illustrations, is very reasonably priced. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it and wholeheartedly recommend all my colleagues to do the same. A H CHIGNELL

An Outline of Ophthalmology. By ROGER L COAKES AND PATRICK J HOLMES SELLORS. Pp. 195. £7·95. Wright: Bristol. 1985.

This excellent compact book is written principally for medical students and has an interesting symptomatic approach to eye disorders. It contains a large amount of information, very well organised into five principal sections on symptoms and two sections based on the eye in systemic disease and ophthalmic investigations with treatment. Profuse black-and-white illustrations accompany the text.

There are some very valuable sections in the book, and I particularly liked those on optical aids, diagnostic tests, and ocular toxicology and was amused by the list of common misconceptions. (About the only omission here was 'Won't my cataract be removed with the laser-beam?'.) My only criticism is that, whilst most of the photographs are eminently clear, some of them would have been much better in colour.

I would thoroughly recommend this book to all medical students. I think it will find a useful place in most casualty departments and general practices as a quick reference for the diagnosis of eye symptoms, and I am sure it will prove useful to nurses and opticians. RONALD J MARSH

Heredity and Visual Development. Eds. JOEL B SHEFFIELD AND S ROBERT HILFER. Pp. 214. DM 164·00. Springer-Verlag: Berlin. 1985.

The Eighth Symposium on Ocular and Visual Development was devoted to exploring current knowledge on the structural and functional bases of genetic eye diseases, a major objective of these symposia being to foster communication between basic scientist and clinician. Of the eight papers presented here five are on retinal dystrophies, both in animal models and in humans, and review large areas of basic research into this important group of disorders. The papers by Bolton and Marshall and by Ripps and his colleagues can be particularly recommended.

Melanin in the fetal retinal pigment epithelium probably determines the chiasmatic pathway choice made by growing axons; hence the abnormality seen in animal and human albinos. Studies of the early development of central visual pathways in normal and albino ferrets support this hypothesis.

Recombinant DNA technology was used to study hereditary cataract in animal models, which may be associated with a reduction or absence of a specific crystallin, while monoclonal antibodies were used to identify the unusual glycoprotein in the cornea of patients with Groenouw's macular dystrophy.

This is an interesting group of review articles by basic scientists who have made an appreciable attempt to be understood by clinicians. It would be a great pity if clinicians do not make the effort required to read them. BARRIE JAY

Genetics of Ocular Disease, Acute Retinal Necrosis Syndrome, Phthisis bulbi. Edited by W STRAUB. Pp. 164. SFr. 129. Karger: Basel. 1985.

This is the tenth volume in the series 'Developments in Ophthalmology' and contains three monographs on widely different topics. The late Jules François discusses the complex subject of multifactorial inheritance, and then considers its relevance to several groups of disorders, including glaucoma and strabismus. Certain of his conclusions must remain open to question, but they do indicate areas where further research is necessary.

Hayreh presents four cases of acute retinal necrosis and reviews 74 cases in the literature. In discussing the pathogenesis of the condition he concludes that, despite suggestions of a viral aetiology, this still remains unknown. The disease appears to represent an acute ocular panvasculitis, a term that Hayreh prefers to acute retinal necrosis.

From his experience of studying the histopathology of 74 eyes Stefani concludes that phthisis bulbi, which is usually post-traumatic, results from pathological processes associated with wound healing. Intraocular haemorrhage is an important predisposing event, and this observation is relevant in the management of severe ocular trauma.

It is useful to have these review articles available for reference. BARRIE JAY

Manifestations Ophtalmologiques des Parasitoses. By J S DIALLO. Pp. 358. 450F. Masson: Paris. 1985.

The Société Française d'Ophtalmologie provides a valuable service to French reading ophthalmologists by producing each year a report on one particular topic. This volume covers a vast subject succinctly, has a useful bibliography, particularly of papers in French, and can be recommended as a useful reference book. BARRIE JAY

Notes

Finance offered

David Cole Travel Fellowship

The David Cole Travel fellowship, instituted by Merck Sharp and Dohme in memory of Professor David Cole, will assist a visit to a hospital or research centre during the academic year starting 1 October 1987. The award will be equivalent to £2000. The purpose of the award is to enable the successful applicant to gain experience and knowledge in pursuit of a specific project related to glaucoma.

Glaucoma Group Research Grant

The Glaucoma Group Research Grant, sponsored by International Glaucoma Association, will be available for a research project clinically orientated towards glaucoma for 1987. The award will be equivalent to £2000. The Grant may be used towards salary or project expenses or for buying equipment.

Both these awards are available to medical graduates and non-medical scientists resident in the United Kingdom or the Irish Republic. They may be held concurrently with other awards. Further details and application forms from Dr S Nagasubramanian, Secretary Glaucoma Group, Glaucoma Unit, Moorfields Eye Hospital, High Holborn, London WC1V 7AN. The closing date for applications is 19 June 1987. The successful candidate will be informed by August 1987.

Ophthalmic pathology meeting

Every five years the European Ophthalmic Pathology Society and the Verhoeff Society of the USA unite for a combined meeting. The venue on 20-24th April 1986 was Philadelphia, with Drs M Yanoff and W Frayer of the Scheie Eye Institute acting as the hosts. Cases with clinico-pathological correlation were presented by each of the participents as listed: Hereditary olivopontocerebellar atrophy (P Naeser, Sweden). Aicardi's syndrome (R Font, USA). Orbitofacial and ocular neurofibromatosis (F Weber, Switzerland). Niemann-Pick variant: type c (D Cogan and T Kuwabara, USA). Dysgenetic glaucoma (M Quintana, Spain). Choroidal melanoma after ruthenium irradiation (W Manschot, Netherlands). Dysplastic naevus syndrome in an infant (O Jensen, Denmark). Lattice corneal dystrophy: type 3 (G Klintworth, USA). Reis-Buckler dystrophy (W Spencer, USA). Lipidisation and detachment of the RPE (W Green, USA). Ridley lens (D Apple, USA). Mycobacterial keratitis in radial keratotomy (N Rao, USA). Perforating fungal corneal ulcer (V Curtin, USA). Intraocular coccidioidomycosis (R Foos, USA). Nocardia endophthalmitis (A Ferry, USA). Neuronal intranuclear inclusion disease (A Tarkkanen, Finland). Serpiginous choroiditis (D Gass, USA). Stevens-Johnson syndrome (J Prause, Denmark). Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada syndrome (F Winter, USA). Necrogranulomatous scleritis (E Landolt, Switzerland). Scleritis with rheumatoid arthritis (P Egbert, USA). Eyelid malakophakia (W Frayer, USA). Prosthesiogenic conjunctival carcinoma (G Goder, GDR). Papillary squamous cell carcinoma of lacrimal sac (M Reeh, USA). Sebaceous carcinoma (I McLean, USA). Eyelid malignant syringoma (E Howes, USA). Anterior segment metastasis (H Kirk, USA). Ligneous conjunctivitis (J McGavic, USA). Metastatic breast carcinoma (F Jakobiec, USA). Malignant oculocerebral lymphoma (B Daicker, Switzerland). Eyewall resection of choroidal melanoma (W Lee, UK). Choroidal melanoma (M Yanoff, USA). Iatrogenic extension of uveal melanoma (G Naumann, FRG). Bilateral ocular melanoma (B Crawford, USA). Aneurysmal bone cyst (M Smith, USA). Orbital intraosseous cavernous haemangioma (M Bonink, USA). Orbital alveolar soft parts sarcoma (M Brihaye, Belgium). Orbital plasmacytic tumour (E Kock, Sweden). Proptosis in acute lymphocytic leukaemia (L Zimmerman, USA). Orbital acute monocytic leukaemia (B Streatan, USA). Ocular malignant fibrous histiocytoma (M Vogel, FRG). Orbital malignant fibrous histiocytoma (H Witschel, FRG). Congenital retinoblastoma (R Eagle, USA). An unusual retinoblastoma (A Garner, UK). Pseudoretinoblastoma (A Hamburg, Netherlands). Norrie's disease (D Albert, USA). Medulloblastoma of the pineal gland (T Makley, USA). Although it is not the practice to publish the proceedings, interested persons are invited to contact the individual contributors for further information regarding their cases. In all some 11 countries were represented, and at the official dinner Professor A Tarkkanen, in his capacity as President of the European Society, presented an engraved silver plaque to the American hosts.