Book reviews

Contemporary Issues in Ophthalmology: Open-Angle Glaucoma. By GEORGE W WEINSTEIN. Pp. 275. £40.00. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1986.

This book is a collection of 13 chapters, all from different North American authors. As is so often the case with publications from multiple authors the contributions vary considerably in quality. Some are fully referenced reviews, others more anecdotal, and in such a brief text there can only be patchy coverage of the subject. The beginner will therefore find it useful as a supplement to one of the basic texts on glaucoma.

Some of the chapters are more valuable than others, and those on diurnal variation in intraocular pressure, signs of early damage, medical treatment, and complications of glaucoma surgery are well worth reading. The chapter on low-tension glaucoma is good and is set out in a fashion to provide practical guidance for the ophthalmic house surgeon. There is a fascinating but perhaps historical chapter on cyclodialysis clefts which includes a description of various ingenious methods of closing the cleft if there is unacceptable hypotony. Chapter 12 is an excellent, compact, and up-to-date summary of laser surgery which covers the successes and limitations of the technique. It is stated, however, that there is a good response to laser trabeculoplasty in aphakic eyes, which conflicts with the opinion of nearly all other authors.

There is a degree of imbalance in the subject matter. On trabeculectomy there is very little indeed. Does this reflect an American aversion to drainage surgery or is the operation now so routine worldwide that extensive discussion is unnecessary? The need for preliminary paracentesis is emphasised, but most surgeons who perform trabeculectomy never do it, and it seems a superfluous step. The final chapter on drainage implants provides a unique background description which will be valuable for those surgeons now taking up this promising technique even if their chosen tube implant is not that used by the authors.

JEFFREY L JAY

Cutaneous Abnormalities of the Eyelid and Face: An Atlas with Histopathology. By DON G GRIFFITH, STUART J SALASCHE, DONALD E CLEMONS. Pp. 367. £135.00. McGraw-Hill: Maidenhead, Berks. 1987.

This atlas illustrates just over 200 skin conditions which might confront and confuse the non-dermatologist. In mind are ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons, and optometrists. The authors—two dermatologists and an ophthalmologist with other contributors—aim at a ready reference with abundant illustrations, offering easy access to the conditions included. The care taken in the design and layout of the book has helped to achieve these aims.

After a (perhaps too brief) review of eyelid anatomy and histology the conditions described are grouped by pathology into 11 main parts with subsections. For example, Part 1 entitled, 'Multisystem processes involving the eyelid', is subdivided into dermatoses and hypersensitivity, vesicobullous diseases, systemic and metabolic diseases, connective tissue diseases, and phakomatoses. Fifty separate

diseases are described in this part. The other 10 parts range from pigmentary problems to parasitic processes, focal insults to fungal diseases. Two hundred and four conditions in all are described. The text is concise and appears on the left hand pages. The brief discussions include pathogenesis, clinical features (not confined to the skin condition), natural history, and treatment. Key features are highlighted and the histopathology is inset. On the right hand pages, always within sight of the relevant text, are the clinical illustrations, mostly of excellent quality, and the histopathology, which is in black-and-white. A supporting bibliography of references (to 1985) completes the coverage of each condition, and a useful glossary of dermatological terms is thoughtfully placed at the end of the atlas.

The text is carefully compiled and easy to read. The histopathology illustrations are of good quality, but the use of colour and the addition of marks to highlight important features would have enhanced their value to the non-pathologist. This atlas is a pleasure to read and will appeal to ophthalmologists. Its price, unfortunately, may relegate it to the library.

A G TYERS

Clinical Ophthalmic Pharmacology. Eds. DAVID W LAMBERTS and DAVID E POTTER. Pp. 588. £47.50. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1987.

This is a multiauthor textbook of ophthalmic pharmacology which presents the subject in a remarkably comprehensive and up-to-date fashion. It is liberally annotated with references to original literature, which would make it an excellent jumping-off point for a specialist study in the field. In this it has no competitor, and I shall keep it for reference purposes.

Most of the chapters, divided largely into drug groups, are well constructed and easy to read, though they lack the wealth of illustration which is to be found in Havener's *Ocular Pharmacology* and which so helps to show the subject as something dynamic. But there are innumerable tables of useful information, including a remarkable 30-page appendix of data on ocular penetration of antibiotics (albeit much of it derived from studies on rabbits), as well as text which explores mechanisms of drug action in an exciting way.

It is not a book for the practising ophthalmologist or for a diploma candidate, who will need something with rather less detail, and the busy reader may be annoyed by some of the repetition. Systemic effects of timolol eyedrops, for example, are discussed three times by different authors (in chapters on antiglaucoma therapy, drugs and the autonomic nervous system, and systemic effects of topical applications), but none mentions their possible implications for the control of retinal blood flow. Some tighter editorial control might have made the whole more coherent. But it is a useful source of information and it is good value for money. Libraries serving the needs of postgraduates should buy it.

S E SMITH

Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Vols 1 and 2. By BYRON C SMITH. 1449. £189.00. Blackwell: Oxford. 1987.

This is a two-volume text comprising 17 sections and 81

chapters. The authors number more than 100. Most are American: all are specialists within their own fields, many of international standing.

The text is clearly indexed and extremely comprehensive with many excellent illustrations and over 3000 references. Many of the chapters are outstanding, but the sections on radiology, blepharoptosis, eyelid tumours, craniofacial abnormalities, and socket surgery are worthy of special mention.

As is invariably the case with any multiauthored book a certain amount of duplication exists. Some of the procedures discussed reflect the predominantly American authorship and are at variance with the accepted teaching on this side of the Atlantic. The only major criticism is that of certain important omissions in the section on eyelid malpositions. Lid surgery in the management of trichiasis merits a mere five lines, while no specific mention is made of upper lid entropion, an astonishing exclusion since seven million people in the world are blind from trachoma. Similarly the surgical management of cicatricial and congenital lower lid entropion is not covered.

In conclusion, the authors' objective of a 'unified and complete reference work on ophthalmic plastic surgery' is largely achieved. The editors are to be congratulated. Virtually all aspects of this rapidly expanding field are covered in an up-to-date, extensively referenced, well written, and beautifully illustrated text. These volumes should be regarded by all those interested in this specialty as the current, definitive reference textbook.

R N DOWNES

Note

European Ophthalmic Pathology Society

The 27th Annual Meeting of the European Ophthalmic Pathology Society was held in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on 7–10 June 1988, at the invitation of the Organising Secretary, Dr A Hamburg. Professor F A Jakobiec, of New York and the Verhoeff Society, was the honoured guest. Twenty-nine ordinary members of the society also attended the meeting together with Professor N Ashton, honorary life president, and Professor W A Manschot, emeritus member.

The following papers were presented at the scientific meeting: Anaplastic carcinoma of the lacrimal gland pre-

senting with recurrent subconjunctival haemorrhages and displaying incipient sebaceous differentiation (F A Jakobiec, USA). Granulomatous reaction in a malignant melanoma of the choroid (K Arnesen, Norway). Lymphoma in an extraocular muscle (E Balestrazzi, Italy). Local ischaemia of the optic nerve (M Brihaye, Belgium). A clinically unpigmented melanoma of the limbus (A Brini, France). Merkel-cell tumour of the eyelid?—A case for diagnosis (J Cunha-Vaz, Portugal). Refsum's disease (heredopathia atactica polyneuritiformis) (B Daicker, Switzerland). Optic nerve glioma with an intraocular tumour in neurofibromatosis (D de Wolff-Rouendaal, Netherlands). Presumed tumour of the optic disc (P C Donders, Netherlands). Monoclonal corneal gammopathy (A Garner, UK). Orbital involvement in a non-Hodgkin lymphoma of high malignancy mimicking a myeloma (G J Goder, GDR). A peculiar epibulbar growth of a conjunctival melanoma (R Haddad, Austria). Anteriorly luxated lens (A Hamburg, Netherlands). Siderosis bulbi and glaucoma (M Hanssens, Belgium). Epiretinal melanosis in a Greenlander (O A Jensen, Denmark). Metastatic tumour in the orbit from the liver (E Kock, Sweden). Aesthesioneuroepithelioma invading the orbit (E Landolt, Switzerland). Unusual orbital lesion—case for diagnosis (Z Latkovic, Yugoslavia). Medulloepithelioma of the ciliary body (W R Lee, UK). Ocular histopathology in a child and a fetus affected with sialidosis (J Libert, Belgium). Choroidal metastasis of an oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma (C M Mooy, Netherlands). AIDS ocular pathology with toxoplasmosis and CMV retinitis (J Mullaney, Ireland). Band keratopathy (P Naeser, Sweden). Marfan's syndrome (G O H Naumann, FRG). Walker-Warburg's syndrome (J U Prause, Denmark). Limbal carcinoma with basaloid differentiation (M Quintana, Spain). Syphilitic chorioretinitis (P A Smith, UK). I O crystals in diffuse myelomatosis with amyloidosis (F H Stefani, FRG). Malignant schwannoma of the orbit in von Recklinghausen neurofibromatosis (M Sterkers, France). Rare intra- and extrabulbar tumour (I Strempel, FRG). Epikeratophakia (A Tarkkanen, Finland). A case of endogenous fungal endophthalmitis (M Uyama, Japan). Pseudolymphoma of the conjunctiva (J Van Baarlen, Netherlands). Angioleiomyoma of the ciliary body (H E Volcker, FRG). Angiomatosis retinae in familial von Hippel-Lindau disease (F Weber, Switzerland). Pleomorphic adenoma of the lacrimal gland (H Witschel, FRG). Chronic human ocular chalcosis (Z Zagorski, Poland).

The next meeting will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, May 1989, and Professor O A Jensen will act as Organising Secretary.