In several sections the book becomes rather too technical for the ordinary ophthalmologist and is better suited for the optician in training, but the author is to be congratulated on his commonsense approach to what can often be a difficult area.

T J FFYTCHÉ

Bucherei des Augenarztes. Vol. 109. Akute Augenerkrankungen Akute Symptome. Eds. OTTO-ERICH LUND and THEO N WAUBKE. Pp. 280. DM 76.00. Ferdinand Enke Verlag: Stuttgart. 1986.

The 109th volume of this series is composed of a collection of articles on acute eye disease and symptoms. This attractive idea of grouping together ophthalmic emergencies with situations where a rapid diagnosis is important succeeds well, and the book can be positively recommended to ophthalmologists.

Chapters include neuro-ophthalmological subjects such as acute loss of vision, acute disc swelling and optic neuritis, headache, eye pain and coma, and acute disturbances of accommodation, visual field, ocular movements, diplopia, vertigo, and colour vision. In addition there are contributions on acute aspects of intraocular haemorrhage, uveitis, keratitis, corneal oedema, glaucoma, hypotony, endophthalmitis, exophthalmos, orbital infections, and lens related problems. The management of most of these emergencies conforms to that practised in Britain, although it is refreshing to see the occasional variation, such as the prescribing of a glass of brandy in the treatment of acute closed-angle glaucoma (supported by the appropriate reference).

Tacked on to the end somewhat surprisingly are two articles on AIDS and radial keratotomy, which, although they do not quite fit into the general scheme of the book, are useful contributions in their own right.

Good editorship has produced a uniformity of presentation with excellent illustrations and diagrams and has kept down the number of unnecessary references, and each chapter, with one exception, carries an English translation of the summary.

This volume provides a useful reference book, not only for ophthalmologists in training but also for those in practice as well.

T J FFYTCHÉ

Rechtliche Grundlagen der augenärztlichen Tätigkeit. By BERNDT GRAMBERG-DANIELSEN. Pp. 128. DM 54.00. Enke: Stuttgart. 1986.

This handbook on legal guidelines in ophthalmic practice is produced in the form of a loose-leaf folder divided into sections. Within these are included information and advice on such subjects as the civil rights of the individual patients and ophthalmologists, legal and social rights, industrial medicine, and guidelines on minimal requirements for visual suitability and fitness in various occupations. Certain sections are left empty, presumably to be filled later, and interestingly these include headings on criminal law, professional rights, and scales of charges. Apart from a brief insight into some of the bureaucratic aspects of German ophthalmic practice there is little in this publication to interest the British ophthalmologist, nor is there likely to be, even if the missing sections are filled.

T J FFYTCHÉ

Clinical Ophthalmology. Edited by SIR STEPHEN MILLER. Pp. 599. £65.00. Wright: Bristol. 1987.

This is an excellent book. It fills a notable gap in the currently available ophthalmic literature by providing a comprehensive and in general up to date review of virtually the entire subject of clinical ophthalmology, and at a reasonable price.

The editor has assembled 23 main chapters by 50 highly respected authors, most of whom are practising ophthalmologists. The main emphasis has been directed towards the clinician, with good supporting chapters on electrophysiology, pharmacology, biochemistry, ultrasound, immunology, low vision, and epidemiology. Most of the chapters are well referenced.

Inevitably in a book of this size there are some weaker chapters, but overall it provides a superb update on current ophthalmic practice. An obvious omission is the lack of a chapter on orbital disease, but this is partly rectified by a very good contribution on radiology and the orbit.

In summary, I can warmly recommend this book to all with an interest in ophthalmology. It is very much a postgraduate text, and a fairly advanced knowledge of the subject is assumed. There are many examples of the 'subtle insights' alluded to by the editor in the preface, and every ophthalmologist will find something of interest here. FRCS candidates will find this book an invaluable adjunct to their reading, while all medical libraries should consider buying at least one copy.

JOHN BEARE

Cosmetic Blepharoplasty: An Illustrated Surgical Guide. By NORMAN SHORR AND STUART R SEIFF. Pp. 85. £22.55. John Wiley: Chichester. 1986.

This book is a basic surgical guide to cosmetic surgery around the eyelids which achieves the authors' stated goal of serving as a 'framework for surgeons learning cosmetic blepharoplasty and as a resource to "finesse in blepharoplasty" for the more experienced surgeon.' The authors' techniques of upper and lower lid blepharoplasty are carefully described, and where these descriptions differ from other recognised techniques the reasons are clearly stated. Interestingly the longest chapter is devoted to eyebrow ptosis, and throughout the book great stress is laid on the importance of considering the whole eyelid and eyebrow region and not just the upper or lower eyelids in isolation. In addition there are chapters on blepharoplasty in the oriental patient and on blepharopigmentation. Though no actual technique is described in any detail for treating blepharopigmentation.

The book is well illustrated throughout with diagrams which make the text easy to follow. Not every surgeon practising cosmetic surgery will agree with all the techniques described, but the book certainly achieves its goal of describing a simple logical set of operations which should give excellent results if carried out as recommended. This makes the book well worth buying for the inexperienced surgeon, while the assessment of the basic characteristics of the whole mid-face and eyebrow region in addition to the eyelids makes it interesting reading for those more experienced.

J R O COLLIN