

**Eye Injuries: An Illustrated Guide.** By ELIZABETH M EAGLING and MICHAEL J ROPER-HALL. Pp. 158. £39.50. Butterworth: Guildford. 1986.

This book provides an excellent overview of a vast subject. It contains much valuable information and advice, drawn from the authors' acknowledged wide experience, on the management of a wide range of ocular injuries. The book is well illustrated by 437 high-quality colour photographs and many additional explanatory line-drawings.

The accompanying text is relatively brief and concentrates mainly on the practical aspects of management. As is perhaps unavoidable with such a large subject, the amount of information given on different topics varies widely. For instance, the first chapter would seem to have been written for medical students, whereas later chapters contain adequate information for specialist management.

This is a highly practical volume, which should be at hand in every casualty department as well as being an extremely useful update for practising ophthalmologists. Z GREGOR

**Glaucoma.** Vols 1 and 2. Edited by J E CAIRNS. Pp. 1127. US \$169.50. Grune and Stratton: Orlando, Florida. 1986.

The late J E Cairns was a much respected ophthalmologist with a lifelong interest in glaucoma. Those of us who came in contact with him benefited from his wisdom, practical approach to glaucoma, and his sense of humour. In addition to these characteristics he will long be remembered for his advocacy of the guarded sclerostomy in the early treatment of primary open-angle glaucoma. Shortly before his death he completed editing this magnificent two-volume book on glaucoma. Here he has collected together as diverse a group of experts as we are likely to see in a subspecialty book on ophthalmology (14 authors from the United Kingdom and Commonwealth, 10 from the continent of Europe, and nine from the USA). Each writer was asked to write on a subject for which he had had firsthand experience and developed noted expertise. By mixing American, European, and Commonwealth writers in this way he has laid out before us a global view of many aspects of glaucoma. It will be a long time before such diversity of authorship will surface again in this subspecialty.

The two volumes are divided into seven sections. Volume 1 contains the sections on examination, treatment, and pathological physiology, while volume 2 has diagnosis and therapy of closed-angle, open-angle, congenital, and secondary glaucomas. Each section contains a varying number of chapters, so that on occasion a pleasing overlap of subjects involving different approaches may be seen. Chapter writers are allowed to bring the warmth of their personal experience rather than the cold draught of a straightforward literature review (as is so often seen in modern ophthalmic texts) to their contributions. For this reason the book adds much needed icing to the cake of a straightforward textbook. It should be read by all those interested in the subject and referred to by fellowship candidates coming up to that particular exam. John Cairns has given us a magnificent book which will stand proudly on my bookshelf for many years to come. ROGER A HITCHINGS

**Laboratory Diagnosis of Ophthalmology.** Edited by ZEYNEK A KARCIOGLU. Pp. 268. £60.00. Macmillan: Basingstoke, Hants. 1987.

Dr Karcioglu and his team of contributors adopt a novel approach in this most recent addition to the growing literature on ophthalmic pathology by seeking to inform the practising ophthalmologist about the range of investigative procedures the laboratory has to offer and how to go about getting the best results. As such it is a worthy aim and the book deserves to succeed.

The opening chapters consider the histological diagnosis of eyelid, conjunctival, and orbital disease and of intra-ocular tumours, with special reference to the techniques of biopsy and examination, while subsequent chapters indicate the diagnostic potential of immunohistochemical staining methods, exfoliative and aspiration cytology, and electron microscopy. Then follow three chapters on microbiological diagnosis. Laboratory tests in the diagnosis of uveitis, of dysthyroid eye disease and of neuro-ophthalmological states come next. Also included are sections on the overall application of biochemical tests and on ocular involvement in haematological disorders.

I like the book because it takes the wide view of ophthalmic pathology as a subject not confined to histopathology, because it draws together a great deal of information not readily found elsewhere (did you know, for instance, that the potassium content of the vitreous is the single most accurate determinant of the time of death?), and because in general it is extremely sound and well written.

And yet, although I have said that it deserves to succeed, I am not sure that it will. It could fall between two stools. Sadly, much of the text could be seen as being unnecessary for most clinical ophthalmologists, these being the ones to whom the book is primarily addressed, particularly when it considers the detailed interpretation of the various tests. Such activity might be regarded as the province of the laboratory workers performing the tests, and indeed, I suspect that the latter may find the book of at least equal value, provided they can be persuaded to overlook some of the more basic parts which for them will almost certainly be redundant. This said, I suggest it should find a place in every laboratory providing an ophthalmic pathology service and in every eye department wishing to make more effective use of its laboratory facility. ALEC GARNER

**Glaucomes Secondaires: Actualités sur le Glaucome.** Edited by R ETIENNE. Pp. 186. 280 F. SIMEP: Paris. 1986.

This slim volume contains 17 papers which were presented at a symposium and a round table discussion which took place there. All but two of the authors were French. The papers are mainly review articles covering various types of secondary glaucoma and as such cover material already published. Although this material is not necessarily new, some of the views expressed may be new to readers in the United Kingdom, for instance, the 'allergic' theory which lies behind the cause of the Posner-Schlossmann syndrome. The volume concludes with a round table discussion on the use of laser for the treatment of open-angle glaucoma. All the papers are in French.

ROGER A HITCHINGS