

Book reviews

New Microsurgical Concepts: Posterior and Anterior Segments. Eds. J DRAEGER AND R WINTER. Pp. 206. DM 216.00. Karger: Basel. 1987.

It is now 22 years since the International Ophthalmic Microsurgery Study Group (IOMSG) met for the first time as a satellite meeting of the International Ophthalmological Congress of 1966. The importance and success of that first meeting was, as Roper-Hall describes in his opening introductory paper of this book, 'catalytic in establishing ophthalmic microsurgery'. Meetings of the IOMSG have been held every two years, and the transactions of the group have been published by Karger in their continuing series *Advances in Ophthalmology* and now *Developments in Ophthalmology*. This book is a record of the proceedings of the twentieth anniversary meeting of the IOMSG.

A wide range of topics are covered, loosely grouped into posterior segment, lasers, cornea, and cataract and glaucoma microsurgery. There are two invited review papers, one on clinically applied silicones and the other on the uses of lasers for microsurgery, which are interesting reviews of the subjects. Whereas these two invited articles are reproduced in full, the remaining scientific papers which make up the bulk of this book have apparently been severely edited. It seems that every author has been limited to only a few pages, and this condensation has taken place at the expense of data and statements of scientific method: the authors' conclusions appear therefore to be unsubstantiated by facts. Furthermore, these papers have apparently neither been refereed nor read or checked by a native English speaker. No doubt many of the papers were presented to this lively meeting of distinguished ophthalmologists with the aim of provoking argument and discussion, but the reader is left without the privilege of hearing their critical response. These many shortcomings and the high price of 216 DM (approximately £70 sterling) make it hard to recommend this slim volume.

BRUCE NOBLE

Complications in Modern Ophthalmic Surgery. Edited by I STREMPPEL. Pp. 156. £58.20. Karger: Basel. 1987.

This is a festschrift in honour of Professor Wolfgang Straub, and is based on the proceedings of a symposium which was convened in his honour in Marburg on 18 January 1986. The 19 contributions cover most aspects of ophthalmic surgery including lid, anterior segment, vitreoretinal, and strabismus procedures. The standard and the scientific contents of individual contributions vary widely, ranging from a simple review of the literature such as in the chapter on complications of posterior chamber implantation to the presentation of detailed results of research studies. The latter include reports on tissue changes induced by intra-ocular lenses, and keratopathy following pars plana vitrectomy with silicone oil. Finally there are chapters which concern themselves with new surgical techniques, omitting the topic of complications altogether.

Given the variety of the topics it is difficult to know who

this publication is aimed at, though undoubtedly most readers will find something of interest in it.

Z J GREGOR

Stereoscopic Atlas of Macular Diseases: Diagnosis and Treatment. Vols. 1 and 2. 3rd Edn. By J DONALD M GASS. Pp. 801. £160.00. Blackwell: Oxford. 1987.

The third edition of this popular textbook, written by the world authority on the subject, reflects the author's astute powers of observation and his vast experience in the management of macular disease. There are two volumes presented in a box and each has a comprehensive and reliable index. In place of the 'suggested readings', which appeared at the end of each chapter in the previous editions there is a reference system which substantially increases the value of the book. A new chapter on interpretation of fluorescein angiography is clearly presented after the chapter on the normal macula, providing an excellent introduction. The colour stereo-wheels are maintained and extended, though the reader must find his own viewer. In addition some prints of stereo-angiograms are included; perhaps these are too small to be fully appreciated.

An important feature of this atlas is the striking amount of text, particularly detailed clinicopathological analysis, such as is applied to choroidal neovascularisation. The author's eye for detail is reflected in subdivision of certain disorders, such as parafoveal telangiectasis. Only rarely, as with discussion of uveal effusion syndrome, does repetition occur or the anecdotal nature of some of the text detract from the facts. Chapter 7, on inflammatory diseases of the retina and choroid, covers a wide range from sarcoidosis to rarities such as gnathostomiasis. AIDS and opportunistic infections are included, and an update is given on treatment. The chapter on pigment epithelial and retinal toxicity is succinct and refers to the recent finding of desferrioxamine maculopathy. The final chapter on laser photocoagulation is thoroughly practical and covers some controversial issues, such as the treatment of pigment epithelial detachments.

This is an excellent book which presents significant new information as part of a comprehensive account of macular disease. Although the price is for specialists, it is not excessive by modern standards. The text should ideally be easily accessible to all ophthalmologists, preferably securely chained to a wall.

CAROLLANE

Note

Dermot Pierson lecture fund

The 5th Dermot Pierson lecture will be given by Professor Louis A Wilson (Atlanta, Georgia, USA) in the Barnes Hall, Royal Society of Medicine, on 14 September 1988. The title of his paper will be 'Infection of the outer eye: a changing spectrum.' The lecture will start at 1845 and be preceded by wine and canapés from 1800. Further information from Dr H Jonathan Kersley, 80 Harley Street, London W1N 1AE.