Book reviews

If one has any complaint about this chapter it is that the description of the technique of phacoemulsification makes it seem far simpler to carry out than it is in practice. The chapter on intraocular lens implantation deals only with the lens of Sinskey style. Apart from the Sinskey lens, the Sinskey forceps and Sinskey hook also feature in the text at this point.

As the preface indicates, this book has been written for a surgeon beginning surgical training, and as a clear account of extracapsular cataract technique it serves this purpose nicely.

ARTHUR D MCG STEELE

Progress in Clinical and Biological Research. Vol 247. Degenerative Retinal Disorders: Clinical and Laboratory Investigations. Eds JOE G HOLLYFIELD, ROBERT E ANDERSON, MATTHEW M LAVAIL. Pp. 606. US\$98.00. Liss: New York. 1987.

This volume is the latest in a series which publishes the proceedings of the Symposia in Clinical and Biological Research. It covers the proceedings of a symposium on retinal degeneration held in Japan in September 1986. It is divided into three sections, the first of which deals with retinitis pigmentosa and other inherited retinal degenerations in man. Because of the time lag in publication much further basic research has occurred and been published since the symposium was held, and the section, while covering the latest developments up to 1986, is deficient in the latest genetic studies, particularly in retinitis pigmentosa. Most of the section deals with retinitis pigmentosa, but the coverage, as one might imagine, is patchy.

The second section deals with inherited retinal degenerations in laboratory animals and would be of great use to those who might become involved in animal research in this field, since it outlines 10 different animal models in six different species. This section is well written and provides very helpful background information for researchers in the field.

The last section deals with induced retinal degenerations in laboratory animals, mainly in relation to the toxicity of light and taurine deficiency. Again, this section is patchy, but the papers in it are of a high quality.

The volume as a whole suffers from differences in typeface between papers and indeed different types of paper within the volume also, giving it a curiously unprofessional air and a lack of literary continuity. It is expensive and of limited value except to those in the field and, in particular, workers involved in animal model research.

A L CROMBIE

Uveitis: A Colour Manual of Diagnosis and Treatment. By JACK J KANSKI. Pp. 114. £29.50. Butterworth: Guildford. 1987.

Jack Kanski is now the most versatile and prolific ophthalmic author since Sir Stewart Duke-Elder. This latest book is a further product of his co-operation with Butterworths and is beautifully produced. The binding is good, paper excellent quality, illustrations lavish, the colour photographs superb, and the layout clear and pleasing.

A short book of just over 100 pages, it starts with an introductory chapter on definitions, classification, and physical signs of uveitis and then divides specific conditions into groups, each of which forms a chapter. These are arthritic syndromes, non-infectious systemic disease, chronic systemic infections, parasites, viral and fungus infection, common idiopathic uveitis, and rare idiopathic syndromes, with the final three chapters on treatment, cataract surgery, and glaucoma.

The text is aimed at resident level. The descriptions of syndromes are brief and subdivided into symptoms, signs, differential diagnosis, treatment, etc, which makes the description clear and concise but does not lead to any discussion. A feature of the book that I found slightly irritating was a catch phrase or important clinical point put in a box as a 'note'. Although these highlight interesting or important points, they give the text a rather glib appearance and in some ways detract from its seriousness. This is a didactic book. Suggestions for further reading rather than references are given in each chapter. There is little or no discussion, so that it is sometimes difficult to place observations on clinical features or management into clinical context. Some growing points in uveitis such as seroconversion of toxoplasmosis during pregnancy or the management of patients on cyclosporin are hardly mentioned, and immunology is mentioned only where it has a diagnostic relevance; this illustrates how little it contributes to the management of routine patients.

The book aims to provide a good solid clinical basis for junior doctors interested in uveitis, and in this role it is probably the best available.

DAVID SPALTON

Radial Keratotomy: Surgical Techniques. Edited by DONALD R SANDERS. Pp. 137. £45.00. John Wiley: Chichester. 1986.

This small hard cover book by six authors, apart from the editor, is designed to describe a number of simple approaches to incisional refractive surgery, for the management of both myopia and astigmatism.

The text is divided into three sections, each of two chapters. The first section deals with spherical correction by radial keratotomy using single depth incisions. The second section deals with spherical correction by radial keratotomy using multiple depth incisions, and the third outlines incisional approaches to the correction of astigmatism. The authors, all American, are well known for their interest in refractive surgery and they present their subject, presumably under the guidance of good editing, in a clear and uncomplicated manner. The text is illustrated with black-and-white photographs and uncluttered drawings.

This book illustrates most effectively the extraordinary variability of this procedure in the hands of different practitioners, and each of the authors reaches the inevitable conclusion that the procedures described will achieve different results in different hands. It is therefore somewhat tiresome to find that some of the authors have been tempted to include pages of individual results of surgical procedures. The author has hoped when doing this to illustrate the value of his own adjustments and modifications, but for the