catalogue of uveitic syndromes; it includes, for example, diseases such as polychondritis and Sjögren’s syndrome. Its approach is disease orientated, so that seleritis is, for example, discussed mainly under rheumatoid arthritis and alluded to elsewhere rather than discussed in its own right as an ophthalmic entity.

The chapters are headed sarcoidosis, systemic vasculitis syndromes, systemic lupus erythematosus, eye and joint disease, psoriatic polychondritis and bowel disease (a slightly odd grouping), and finally infectious disease and the eye. There is a rather uneven emphasis on some conditions. There are, for instance, 16 pages on sarcoidosis, 10 on SLE, and only half a page on AIDS. The general arrangement is to describe the systemic features and the type of ocular involvement with notes on the aetiology, diagnosis and, briefly, treatment, with short descriptions on immunopathology and aetiology—which I found the most interesting. Each chapter is very well referenced and illustrated with black-and-white photographs, many of which are unfortunately rather poorly reproduced.

Books such as this have a difficult role, for they often fail to satisfy either ophthalmologists or general physicians because the volume of material to be covered is so large. For instance, most ophthalmologists will want to dispense with the first chapter on ocular signs, though it may be of interest to physicians, and vice versa the same may apply to some of the medicine. The ratio of general medicine to ophthalmology on each topic varies considerably but is probably in the ratio of two-thirds medicine to one-third ophthalmology. I found, not surprisingly, that the ophthalmology was better done.

Ophthalmologists may use the book as a short handbook but will want to turn to the larger textbooks for more complete descriptions of systemic diseases or the conventional ophthalmic specialist texts for a fuller discussion of complications and treatment. It does, however, contain much easily readable information and will certainly find a role for quick and easy reference. It is a pity that the publishers did not do a better job on the presentation of the material for their author.

D.J. Spalton


This book presents the proceedings of a congress held in 1984, but the contributions have been adapted for publication in 1987. It contains 103 papers drawn from 16 countries and is divided into three parts. The first part is dedicated to biometric ultrasound; the second and third parts deal with diagnostic ultrasound in intraocular and orbital and peri-orbital disease, respectively.

Some worthwhile papers dealing with axial length measurement and intraocular lens implant power calculation, corneal thickness measurement, and retinal/choroidal/scleral thickness measurement are presented in part 1. Fortunately there appears to be a heightened awareness by some authors that the major source of error in axial length measurement is misalignment of the probe. Fourier analysis techniques are used by several authors in the measurement of retinal/choroidal/scleral thickness, and there is a refreshing recognition that echoes detected on A or B mode do not necessarily correspond to the boundaries of these interfaces.

Part 2, dealing with intraocular diagnosis, contains a mixture of the well known and the controversial peppered with some interesting and worthwhile observations despite many very poor greyscale/bistable displays. One paper claims A mode is useful in the differentiation of spindle cell and epitheloid malignant melanoma, an observation which is contradicted by the following paper. Other papers look at the response of malignant melanoma to radiotherapy. Some describe doppler techniques, but surprisingly duplex imaging (combined simultaneous doppler and real-time B mode) in ophthalmogy is mentioned but not used or referenced in this context. Colour doppler imaging is not mentioned.

A series of papers on orbital disease are to be found in the final part of the book. Some interesting observations and useful measurements are presented in some papers. In the concluding appendix, dealing with the therapeutic use of ultrasound in choroidal detachment, which is recommended to us by the authors, there is some confusion whether three patients or 42 patients received this ultrasonic treatment.

This book will be of interest to those actively engaged in the field of ophthalmic ultrasound but at £95.50 is unlikely to appeal to those on NHS salaries.

MARIE RESTORI


Normally the published proceedings of symposia are among the most frustrating volumes presented to the scientific community. For those who attended the symposium they are sometimes helpful as aide mémores, but to those who did not they often appear as a series of disparate papers with little co-ordination of subject matter and great variation in scientific content and literary style. This volume is unique in that it will delight its readers from cover to cover.

It is divided into three sections–physiology of photoreceptors, molecular biology and biochemistry of photoreceptors, and functional organisation of the retina. In each section significant advances have been made over the last few years, and these advances are related to a great extent by their discoverers. Few books of this type have contributions by such eminent authorities as Sir Alan Hodgkin, Professor H Gobind Khorana, and Professor John Dowling. Each of these are at the forefront of their field but still retain the capacity to relate the complexities of their work to the interested reader.

The section on physiology of photoreceptor cells is a model of clarity and with three contributions is a must for all students in the field of phototransduction. After reading these three papers it would be very difficult for any student to fail an examination on this subject.

The clarity of the text and the comprehensive nature of the contents are maintained in the section on molecular biology and biochemistry of the photoreceptors. Here the latest developments in the structure and function of rhodopsin are described together with the important recent