

Book Reviews

ABC of Eyes.

A. R. Elkington and P. T. Khaw

Most doctors need to know something about eye disorders. General practitioners, casualty officers and medical students in particular require a concise, well-illustrated and readable book to which to turn for reference or revision. This new edition of *ABC of eyes*, originally published as a series of articles in the British Medical Journal, by A. R. Elkington and P. T. Khaw fulfils these criteria admirably. The colour pictures are a valuable improvement on the monochrome of P. A. Gardiner's previous edition. The authors have adopted a 'problem oriented' approach which, with careful selection of material, makes it a useful reference booklet. Ophthalmologists may with confidence recommend it to colleagues in other disciplines.

R. Finlay

Manual of Oculoplastic Surgery.

Edited by Mark R. Levine.

This manual is written by a number of doctors, the main aim is to be a stepwise description of common oculoplastic surgical procedures for doctors well versed with their diagnosis. So it is for doctors who know which procedure to do but do not know how to do it. Who are those doctors? It is really too advanced for those beginning their training in oculoplastic surgery, while it is too basic for those who have more experience.

Being written by many authors some things are mentioned twice, while others are not. Anterior approach for levator resection in ptosis surgery is described in full detail both in the congenital and acquired part, while posterior levator resection is not mentioned at all.

The pictures are good, they are clear and show well relevant details. Some of the subjects are also well presented, like ectropion, where the chapters do not overlap.

It is difficult to edit a book like this, I would

have preferred more interference from the editor, i.e. a more schematic approach for each disease category. That would have helped the beginner and not harmed the one who knows more.

Haraldur Sigurðsson

1988 The Year Book of Ophthalmology.

Ed J. T. Ernest and T. A. Deutsch.

This 1988 edition of the Year Book repeats the familiar format with summaries and critical reviews of major papers from the year in question (which is actually the year up to December 1987).

Two hundred papers from over 50 journals have been chosen. The book is arranged in 11 chapters and each opens with a mini-review on subjects ranging from 'α, β and Glaucoma Therapy' to 'Retinal Toxicity With Chloroquine'. Each paper is given a fairly full summary with original illustrations included where appropriate. An editorial comment follows each paper placing it in context and emphasising important conclusions.

The book is easy to read, and provides a wide ranging, although inevitably incomplete, summary of the year's developments. It provides a painless way to update on topics outside one's main areas of interest.

B. L. Halliday

The Eye in Infancy.

Sherwin J. Isenberg, MD.

Year Book Medical Publishers Inc 1989.

The title of this collaborative work, which involves forty authors, suggests a narrower sphere of reference than is attempted. It is, in fact, a substantial book covering the whole field of Paediatric Ophthalmology.

The structure is well conceived and the bulk of the chapters are well written. The best chapters are those which do stay within the realm of the title in treating the infant eye as an organ with its related structures. Chapters on teratogenic agents, chromosome abnor-

malities, infectious diseases and abnormalities of the eyelids are excellent, the last of these being superbly illustrated.

Chapters on disorders of the lens and on systemic disorders and the eye both attempt the difficult task of relating features and syndromes in tabular form. This presentation implies an encyclopaedic list, which is clearly impossible, but I did expect some reference to posterior embryotoxon, Lisch nodules and Joubert's syndrome which are not indexed. These tables might be better combined, as would the chapters on visual acuity assessment of the preverbal patient and testing of the possibly blind child.

The important subject of retinopathy of prematurity is well reviewed in a combined pair of chapters as is that of infantile cataract providing a comprehensive account of its diagnosis and management.

Subsequent editions of this book will benefit from tighter editorship in order to achieve less repetition especially with regard to examination methods and the description of conditions such as buphthalmos and corneal abnormalities. There are also points of ambiguity and error such as in the classification of megalocornea and on the applicability of Preferential Looking techniques.

Despite these shortcomings, this is a very creditable addition to the literature which should be made widely available in medical and ophthalmic departmental libraries. It will probably endure the test of time.

R. M. L. Doran

Uveitis, Fundamentals and Clinical Practice.

R. B. Nussenblatt and A. G. Palestine.

As a comprehensive text on the subject of uveitis, this new book stands alone in the field, but its present uniqueness is only one of its many virtues. The introductory two fifths deals with current concepts of pathogenesis, diagnosis and therapy. There is, throughout the book, a focus on possible immune mechanisms of disease pathogenesis which establishes a relevance for the very informative first chapter on the elements of the immune system. The general ophthalmic reader will be introduced to many new concepts.

The following chapters deal in depth with the major groups of intra-ocular inflammatory disease, including specific infections and viral retinitis. They are well illustrated in black and white and full reference lists are provided.

On the subject of uveitis, there is little knowledge but much speculation. The authors are to be warmly congratulated on making no attempt to disguise this, nor to obscure the degree to which many statements and recommendations represent informed opinion, rather than conclusions established through valid clinical trials. This undoubtedly accounts for a certain wordy tentativeness of the text. There are remarkably few solecisms in this most readable book. Its reasonable price should help it to reach the wide audience it richly deserves.

W. J. Dinning