

been interesting to see data comparing the number of explanations to the total of implantations in any one year.

Anisocoria, like nystagmus may be a daunting clinical entity: Schechter's flow-chart on the assessment of unequal pupils is helpful and succinct, however six pages of text on the pharmacology of the pupil and the Marcus Gunn phenomenon could usefully have been replaced by a simple large diagram.

Brown's exposé on the ocular ischaemic syndrome proceeds in a logical manner and is full of useful clinical and pictorial detail. Unlike some, it is a chapter from which one can easily grasp the contents on first reading. The prize for fulfilling Reinecke's promise in the preface goes to Kushner for his 'Functional amblyopia': it has just the right mixture of science and anecdote to read as if he were sitting across from you in a comfortable chair telling you a story. There is a balanced combination of clinical data and pictures, though it has to be said that the patching regimen in this country on the whole may not be as aggressive or long-lasting.

All in all there are more satisfactory than disappointing chapters, though many statements will find an equal number of fans and detractors. Whatever one's clinical habits it is always interesting to read about someone else's *modus operandi*, but this book is not a purchase for exams. Rather it belongs to an otherwise well stocked library, be it personal or hospital, for selective perusal at leisure.

Michele Beaconsfield

Cataracts. Transactions of the New Orleans Academy of ophthalmology, Ed DR Caldwell, Raven Press, New York. 1988

This prolix little volume is filled with contributions from well known and respected figures on the cataract scene in the United

States. It has the sole merit of bringing together a series of contemporary views between hard covers. There is little new or original and less hard science but a great deal of anecdotal documentation.

I find it hard to recommend this particular curate's egg.

Colin M. Kirkness.

Clinical Optics Troy E. Fannin and Theodore Grosvenor. Butterworths

As the authors say in their preface, this is a text intended for use by optometry students, technicians and dispensing opticians. It is a detailed treatise on the optics of spectacle lenses, their design and manufacture, with a chapter on the design and dispensing of frames. The optical principles of low vision aids and the optics of contact lenses are also covered.

The authors also say that they have assumed an understanding of the optics of thin and thick, cylindrical and toric lenses; prisms; chromatic dispersion, lens aberrations, interference, diffraction and polarisation. Full mathematical detail is given for the principles described, and each chapter ends with a list of questions and calculations for the reader to practise (answers are given at the end of the book).

While this is a detailed and highly technical book, it is written from a clinical point of view and the ophthalmologist can dip into it with profit. The text is readable and the diagrams clear. Details are explained which are not usually included in clinical texts on ophthalmic optics, and the interested clinician will find his understanding of the subject deepened. There is more to prescribing and dispensing spectacles than meets the eye!

The clarity and readability of this book should make it an asset to ophthalmic teaching centre libraries.

H. J. Frank.