

ised, it is at present expensive and at times unreliable. There is however an enormous potential for this technique which has yet to be fully evaluated, and the role that the scanning laser ophthalmoscope (SLO) will certainly play in future clinical practice still has to be determined.

This book is comprised of a number of reports on experience with the SLO by researchers and clinicians working with the machine. The first two chapters give an excellent review of the basic principles and clinical applications and current state of the art of the SLO. The remaining 24 chapters elaborate on the varied potential of scanning laser imagery, and include such topics as its use in tomography, angiography, the quantification of retinal blood flow, reflectometry, perimetry, and eye movement measurement. The ability the instrument has to store and process information is continually stressed, and this is where its potential is perhaps greatest.

This is not really a book for clinicians—too many formulae, too much physics, but it is an important book. Scanning laser ophthalmoscopy and its allied techniques do represent a major development in ophthalmic science which is advancing rapidly, and within a few years it can be anticipated that the SLO (hopefully less expensive) will be an integral part of the equipment of many eye departments. The second edition will be the one to read!

T. J. ffytche

***Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery of the Orbitopalpebral Region***

Denys Montandon, Gaston F. Maillard, Serge Morax, Laurence J. Garey  
(Churchill Livingstone) Edinburgh 1990

The expertise of the authors, particularly in the areas of cranio-facial reconstruction and oculoplastic surgery, is readily evident in this book. The book starts with an interesting outline of the history of oculoplastic surgery, followed by brief reviews of cranio-facial anatomy, the physiology of wound healing, adnexal tumours and cranio-facial radiology.

The surgical chapters cover most aspects of oculoplastic and cranio-facial surgery. The many oculoplastic techniques available has inevitably restricted the number that can be

described in the text, but for most conditions an adequate range of methods are presented; a notable omission is the posterior approach for surgery on the levator aponeurosis. The chapters about cranio-facial surgery contain a wealth of diverse clinical information; presentation of such material is difficult, but the authors give the principles of surgery as well as a series of illustrated case-reports.

Different medical practices in the authors' countries, or their own particular interests, are sometimes reflected in their choice of technique: Examples include the use of glass for orbital implants and ocular prostheses, ointments (with added vitamins) in the presence of a prosthesis, and the use of a bicoronal flap for orbital decompression in dysthyroid eye disease. Some of the methods described (such as the Weis procedure—p.159) are liable to serious complication and, perhaps, should be avoided. Other techniques are incorrectly described—as, for example, the local anaesthesia for dacryocystorhinostomy (p.226).

This book is derived from the first edition in French, the translation is excellent and most chapters are referenced to a fairly comprehensive and useful bibliography. The quality and reproduction of photographic illustrations are good, but some line drawings are inadequate and several of the illustrations are incorrectly labelled or upside-down.

This book reviews cranio-facial and oculoplastic surgery for practitioners with a specific interest and training in this surgical speciality. It provides interesting reading and would be a useful addition to a medical library, but might not be regarded as essential in a personal collection.

Geoffrey E. Rose

***Current issues in Endocrinology and Metabolism—Graves' ophthalmopathy***

Edited by Jack R. Wall & Jacques How. £45

This special volume is dedicated to Dr Joseph Kriss who died in September 1989 and pioneered immunological work on the association of ophthalmopathy and thyroid disease, particularly the role of thyroglobulin.

The book comprises fifteen chapters each written by a recognized world authority on their specific subject. Four of these detail the

immunological perspectives and the conflict of eye muscle autoantibodies, orbital connective tissue antibodies and cell mediated immunity. The result is an excellent summary of all the research that has been done but disappointing to read as the ultimate goal of ascertaining whether the antibodies are pathogenic or the nature of the antigens still eludes the investigators.

The chapter on diagnostic tests and clinical techniques by Steve Feldon is excellent and contains a useful appraisal of how to quantify the clinical signs which indicate extraocular muscle enlargement and consequently the patients with significant visual morbidity. This chapter is enhanced by a delightful table detailing all the eponyms attached to clinical

signs associated with Graves' ophthalmopathy including those of Ballet, Jellinek and Stellwag. The management of the disease is dealt with in seven chapters and include the role of plasmaphoresis and radiotherapy as well as orbital decompression. These are all sensible and cautionary but are limited by the lack of controlled studies.

This book is essentially a review of the literature and as such is useful and an important addition to libraries. However, the nature of the disease still eludes the researchers and consequently although the book contains good practical advice, our clinical management remains unchanged.

Elizabeth M. Graham