This book is of value to the practicing clinician, to post graduate students and to fields technicians alike. It is a worthy addition to their working library.

Greg Munton

Ophthalmology Monographs 1 Retinal Detachment

George F. Hilton, Edward B. McLean, Elaine L. Chaung
American Academy of Ophthalmology

This short book is produced by the American Academy of Ophthalmology and is intended for residents in training.

It is attractively produced, with good colour photographs and references at the end of each chapter are generally well chosen.

The quality of the chapters reflects its multiauthorship. The introductory chapters on pathogenesis and natural history of retinal detachment are of good quality and appropriate complexity for the beginner.

The chapter concerning preoperative management for retinal reattachment surgery is poor. One surgeon's practise is described, with no reference to studies which might support his recommended management—for example that patients should routinely be given laxatives daily and chloral hydrate sedation at night.

The section on retinopexy opens with a discussion of the use of scleral diathermy—a method long since discarded to the pages of the history books by most retinal surgeons. A discussion of scleral buckling describes in detail techniques for scleral resection and oversewing whilst too little space is given to the use of scleral explants.

The book claims that a discussion of vitrectomy is beyond its scope. It shouldn't be. The ability to identify cases where primary vitrectomy is appropriate is an essential part of the training of all ophthalmologists and its exclusion from this monograph is wrong.

Despite the good quality of the production of this volume and the excellent opening chapters, the faults in the sections concerning surgical management are such that this monograph cannot be recommended to ophthalmic surgeons in training.

Wendy Franks

Radiology of the Eye and Orbit

T. H. Newton, L. T. Bilaniuk, eds
(Modern Neuroradiology, Volume 4).
A Clavadel Book. pp x+350. Raven Press, New York 1990.

This substantial addition to the literature on ocular and orbital imaging covers magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasonography and X-ray computed tomography (CT). For most ophthalmologists the technical chapters on ultrasonography and MRI are probably of very restricted interest, and those on anatomy also of limited appeal. The meat of the book consists of about 200 profusely illustrated pages on imaging of pathology of the eye and orbit. However, many ophthalmologists referring patients for imaging are subspecialists and for those beyond the training stage, I am not sure that orbital imaging will greatly concern those who frequently use ocular ultrasound, and vice versa.

The quality of the CT and ultrasound studies is generally excellent. That of the MR images, particularly of some of the rarer conditions, is understandably more variable. Unfortunately, at some points text and relevant illustrations are ten or more pages apart.

British readers may find themselves at loggerheads with some of the views explicit or implicit in the text, such as disparagement of STIR imaging of the optic nerve, and loyalty to the concept of orbital lymphangiomas. The CT chapters in particular were written some years ago (and are reprinted from Volume 3 of this series), so some conditions discussed in more recent journal articles, such as retrobulbar neuritis, orbital liposarcoma or intraconal haematic cyst, are rather neglected.

I believe strongly that the skeleton for radiological textbooks, especially those aimed at clinicians, should be clinical presentations or at least types of pathology, but this, like most, is organised by techniques; an additional chapter, critically evaluating the utility in clinical management of the methods described, would have made this book more valuable for the ophthalmologist, and probably for the imaging specialist too.

Ivan Moseley