

## Book reviews

**Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation.** By H. BERGMANN and B. BLAUHUT. 1975. Pp. 176, 79 figs, refs. Springer-Verlag, Berlin (no price given)

Four subjects are discussed in this composite volume—anaesthesia in ophthalmology and in ENT surgery, blood coagulation, and blood gas analysis, and they are presented in 'workshop' form. The articles are designed for postgraduate anaesthetists and the ophthalmic section deals with local and general anaesthesia in ophthalmology, the intraocular pressure, and the oculo-cardiac reflex. The information is up to date and relevant to ophthalmic surgery and this section should be read by those anaesthetists who are concerned with ophthalmic lists.

T. J. FFYTCHÉ

**Basic Mechanisms of Ocular Motility and their Clinical Implications** (Proceedings of an International Symposium, Wenner-Gren Centre, Stockholm, 4–6 June 1974). Edited by G. LENNERSTRAND and P. BACH-Y-RITA. 1975. Pp. 584, figs, refs. Pergamon Press, Oxford (\$60)

This 24th volume in the series records the proceedings of a three-day meeting held in Stockholm in June 1974. It was planned to encourage interaction between the laboratory scientists and clinical investigators, with the scientist first presenting his subject and the clinician discussing the paper and its clinical implications.

The contributors maintain a high standard in their work which concerns the structure and ageing of extraocular muscles, the motor units, and the oculomotor control system. Next, central mechanisms are discussed with particular reference to the vestibulo-ocular reflex, cerebellar influences, and supranuclear ocular motor control. The high quality of the work is maintained in the free contributions which include several papers on the interaction of head and eye movements.

It would be invidious to single out particular authors since nearly all the leading laboratory researchers and clinicians seem to be represented. The aim of interaction between the two groups is not achieved in the written word, although much useful, unreported discussion occurred outside the lecture hall. Nevertheless the intention was right and this book is an excellent account of a wide range of current work into ocular motor problems. Clinicians who read it will be amply rewarded by their increased understanding of some aspects and in a much better position to ask the right questions of the scientists. We may even be able to ask them in the right, scientific language! This, in fact, is the proposed theme of the next symposium.

PETER FELLS

**The Eye and its Disorders.** By P. D. TREVOR-ROPER. 1974. Pp. 726, figs, refs. Blackwell, Oxford (£11)

This is a reprinting of the 1974 edition, which itself was a new edition of the earlier *Ophthalmology: a Textbook for Diploma Students*, first published in 1955 and subsequently revised in a second edition in 1962. The fact

that a reprinting of the third edition of this textbook has been found necessary testifies to its deserved popularity, which in catering for those preparing for the British diploma in ophthalmology meets a need for a clearly written and not too detailed account of the theoretical basis and practical aspects of ophthalmic medicine and surgery.

The first three sections of the book comprising about one-third of its length deal with anatomy, physiology, and optics while the remaining two sections are concerned with diseases of the outer and inner eye.

The aetiology, pathology, and differential diagnosis of all the important ocular disorders are considered and where appropriate details of both medical and surgical treatment are given. The text is highly readable, and the illustrations are clear and add significantly to the value of the book.

*The Eye and its Disorders* can be recommended to postgraduates beginning the study of ophthalmology as presenting within short compass a succinct account of ophthalmology in sufficient detail to meet the needs of the diploma student or indeed to act as a useful reference text for the interested undergraduate or general practitioner.

Criticisms are slight. Economic necessity has resulted in grouping the colour plates together so that they no longer relate easily to the appropriate text as in the earlier editions of the book, and perhaps one or two of them have been included because of availability rather than because colour adds significantly to their value. The caption to the illustration of 'physiological cupping' in Plate 3 in which the cup to disc ratio is in the region of 0.7 is arguable, and the retinal tear in Plate 4 is the reverse of the usual appearance where the 'arrow' points posteriorly. Inevitably where such a wide range of subjects is dealt with between the covers of one book depth has to be sacrificed, but in general the subject matter is dealt with in sufficient detail to fulfil its remit. Perhaps the section on glaucoma could be improved for although revised it has a slightly outmoded ambience carried over from earlier editions when our understanding of this group of conditions was even poorer than it is at present. One hopes that future editions may find room for recent developments in the understanding of such conditions as disciform degeneration, ischaemic optic neuropathy, and central serous retinopathy.

There is an excellent index and the quality of the paper and the printing is high. The book can be recommended to the postgraduate student beginning the study of ophthalmology both for its authority and its readability.

W. S. FOULDS

**Genetic and Metabolic Eye Disease.** Edited by M. F. GOLDBERG. 1974. Pp. 654, tables, figs, refs. Little Brown, Boston (£20.30)

The great advances that have been taking place in genetic and metabolic diseases in general have produced a large number of textbooks and monographs on these subjects. Ophthalmologists have been in the forefront of research into clinical genetics ever since its emergence