

Book reviews

Synopsis of Ophthalmology, by William H. Havener, M.D., Ed. 3, St. Louis, 1971, The C. V. Mosby Company, 533 pages, \$12.75.

The first and most important point about this synopsis of ophthalmology is that it is not intended for the practicing ophthalmologist, but for the nonophthalmologist (the generalist, the internist, and so forth), and especially for the medical student. The second and equally important point is that this intent is accomplished with excellence.

The two aspects of the book which are responsible for its excellence are the use of the Socratic program of questions, case reports, and simplified drawings, and the first three chapters on ocular examination. Indeed, Chapter 3 on "applied ophthalmoscopic technique" is one of the best of its kind for medical student teaching. One minor criticism: Labeled diagrammatic drawings alongside of fundus photographs would have been an enhancement, especially for the novice ophthalmoscopist.

Course directors in ophthalmology at medical schools should strongly consider this text as the one they recommend to their students.

Morton E. Smith, M.D.

The Assessment of Visual Function, edited by Albert Potts, St. Louis, 1972, The C. V. Mosby Co., 226 pages, \$24.50.

The American Committee on Optics and Visual Physiology (of which the reviewer is a recent member) has sponsored the writing of this review of clinical vision testing. The need to close the gap between developments in basic visual science and clinical application has been recognized. This book had its origin as a text for a course presented at the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

This relatively brief book attempts to provide the reader with an understanding of the meaning and the limitations of the various tests performed (acuties, field testing, adaptation tests, color tests, binocular functions, and electrophysiological test procedures). There is unevenness in style, and there are some inaccuracies and a few sections might be difficult for the average clinician to grasp. On the whole, however, the book does achieve the purpose of bringing together in one place a readable summary of current thought

relative to vision testing procedures in a reasonably concise and lucid form. As such, it can serve as a most useful test for residents and clinicians.

Jay M. Enoch

The Relation of Angioid Streaks to Systemic Disease, by David Paton, M.D., Springfield, Ill., 1972, Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 82 pages.

This very brief textbook is essentially a treatise on one particular ophthalmologic entity, angioid streaks. It is derived from the author's experience with 58 patients and the histologic study of 10 cases. Individual chapters are devoted to specific systemic diseases which are known to be associated with angioid streaks, such as pseudoxanthoma elasticum, Paget's disease, etc.

The text is extremely well written and the chapter discussing the pathologic nature of angioid streaks per se is especially good. In all candor, it must be pointed out (as does the author in his introduction) that much of the material presented in this hardback textbook can be obtained from two journal articles. Whether one gets the material from this text or from the journals, it is well worth an evening's reading.

Morton E. Smith

Symposium on Ocular Therapy, Volume 5, edited by I. H. Leopold, St. Louis, 1972, The C. V. Mosby Co., 165 pages, \$18.50.

This delightful book contains several excellent chapters summarizing the current thinking on selected therapeutic problems in Ophthalmology. The chapter by Burns on the effectiveness of various antibiotics is superb and presents an excellent model for further studies of this type. The chapters on systemic and topical corticosteroids by Harris and Aronson and Moore are quite good and thought-provoking. Even taking into account the reviewer's bias, the chapter by Podos and Becker on the intraocular pressure effects of new and dilute topical corticosteroids is superb. Almost all the other chapters are uniformly interesting and informative, and the overall quality of the book is excellent. Considering the wealth of information presented, as well as the reasonable price of this volume, it is highly recommended.

Stephen R. Waltman