

Book reviews

Vitreoretinal Pathology and Surgery in Retinal Detachment, by Paul A. Cibis, M.D., St. Louis, 1965, The C. V. Mosby Company. 293 pages, 227 figures, \$20.00.

This monograph is one of the last contributions to the field of retinal detachment surgery by Dr. Cibis prior to his recent death. It represents an attempt to organize the basic thoughts and pathophysiological concepts which led him to the development of the new and revolutionary techniques of intravitreal surgery. The first part of the book deals with the importance of vitreous pathology in the pathogenesis of retinal detachment. The second describes the instruments and procedures designed for vitreoretinal surgery. The results achieved with the use of these techniques in eyes previously considered hopeless and inoperable are testimony to the validity of this approach. The book is beautifully illustrated and well written. Emphasis is placed on the operative complications of intravitreal surgery so as "to give others the advantage of experiences we would not wish to see repeated." Some of the theoretical concepts expressed will be changed; the instruments and surgical procedures will almost certainly be considered primitive by future generations. Nevertheless, this book serves as a foundation for exciting

future developments in this area of ophthalmic surgery.

Allan E. Kolker, M.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, Missouri

Eye-primer. Eye Illnesses in General Practice, by Prof. Dr. med. R. Brückner, Stuttgart, 1966, Georg Thieme Verlag. 266 pp. with 71 illustrations, D.M. 29.70.

This well-organized textbook presents to the general practitioner of medicine an approach to ophthalmology requiring only a flashlight and an ophthalmoscope. Considerable emphasis is placed on what can be within the realm of the general practitioner, and what problems require the attention of an ophthalmologist. The first chapter deals with first aid treatment, then progresses to the recognition of ophthalmologic emergencies, including the diagnosis of such emergencies by telephone. The text then progresses to an almost encyclopedic, but simple description of ophthalmologic examination, diagnosis, and treatment.

Bernd Silver, M.D.
St. Louis, Missouri