

Book reviews

So You Have Cataracts, by Albert E. Sloane, M.D., Springfield, 1970, Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 98 pages, illustrated, \$5.75.

This little book is based on the premise that a patient facing the prospect of cataract surgery asks no foolish questions—"if it concerns him enough to ask it, it deserves an answer." Most of the questions commonly posed by cataract patients (and their families) are covered in concise, short explanations, but with sufficient detail to be meaningful.

The book is divided into two sections. The first is devoted to a short explanation of cataracts and a description of the sequence of events during hospitalization and recovery from cataract surgery. The remaining portion takes up frequent questions asked by patients. It is likely that most ophthalmologists will find at least one or two answers that will offer a useful and slightly different approach to some of these questions.

Nurses, office personnel and ophthalmic assistants who come in close contact with patients, and who are often asked questions before the ophthalmologist, will find the book especially interesting. Perhaps the only criticism that one can offer is that the value of the book in its intended purpose is unknown. One would like to know the evaluation of the book by patients undergoing cataract surgery, how they reacted to it, whether the questions were relevant and the answers meaningful. This, after all, will determine the eventual benefit of such a text.

Allan E. Kolker, M.D.

Television Ophthalmoscopy, by Richard Dallow, M.D., Springfield, 1970, Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 104 pages, illustrated, \$8.50.

Dr. Dallow has performed an important service. His monograph describes in a lucid, readable style, the principles, methodology, equipment, and applications of televising the fundus.

The author contrasts the advantages and disadvantages of the televised image particularly with regard to automation, quantification, and demonstration capabilities versus cost and resolution. The current applications including static and dynamic measurements, gross fluorescein angiography, and spectral reflectance observations are

described. In addition to these already proven applications, Dr. Dallow provides many interesting ideas for future research. It is hard to find fault with this book. A glossary of television terms would have been helpful. Most of the pertinent references are cited; the index is good.

All in all, Dr. Dallow has succeeded in providing a well-written and provocative bridge between the two disciplines. His book is recommended for all who are interested in the examination of the fundus whether for research, teaching, or screening. It will also be of interest to all who would like a painless introduction to the technical principles of television.

Robert L. Stamper, M.D.

Ocular Pharmacology, by William H. Havener, ed., 2, St. Louis, 1970, The C. V. Mosby Company, 556 pages, illustrated, \$29.50.

The second edition of this book is one hundred pages longer and a few dollars more expensive than the first edition, which is now four years old. The majority of its contents are organized into chapters on classes of drugs. Additional chapters discuss the tissue adhesives and antihelminthics. Revisions of material abound, such as a lucid description of the neurochemical mediators and blocking agents which introduces the chapter on autonomic drugs. Not only pharmacology, but also therapeutics are handled adroitly in a new section dealing with relatively common eye problems. The author wisely admonishes the reader to beware of the writer's biases when it comes to the "right" therapy. This new up-to-date edition is recommended as a most comprehensive compilation of information about the agents in the ophthalmologist's therapeutic armamentarium.

Steven M. Podos, M.D.

Stereoscopic Atlas of Slit-Lamp Biomicroscopy, by Alson E. Braley, M.D., et al., St. Louis, 1970, The C. V. Mosby Company, Vols. I and II, 225 pages, illustrated, \$79.50.

The Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Iowa has been one of the leaders in the development of stereoscopic atlases as a teaching