

section on retrolental fibroplasia the primary vaso-constrictive effect of oxygen, demonstrated first by Ashton, Ward and Serpell, is not mentioned. This seems a pity, since it presumably constitutes the basic change from which all the other sequelae develop.

In many sections ocular muscle palsies are described, but it is rare to find mention of the prognosis. It is surprising to find toxoplasmosis described as a yeast infection (page 117). Some of the illustrations are poor, for example Plates VII and X and Figs. 107, 149 and 206. There is a line of text missing on page 160.

In the section on diabetes the ophthalmoscopic visibility of microaneurysms is not admitted; all red dots are described as haemorrhages. There are minor errors in the figures for the eight-year mortality of grade II hypertensives and for the age incidence of temporal arteritis.

On page 509 pre-existing glaucoma is not mentioned as one of the important predisposing causes of retinal venous occlusion and on page 659 senile exfoliation of the lens capsule is still described as such, whereas it has been shown beyond reasonable doubt by Dvorak Theobald and other authors that it is a widespread deposit within the eye without demonstrable abnormality of the capsule.

These are all fairly minor points and detract little from the value of a very excellent book, which can be highly recommended.

R.S.

EYE SURGERY

By H. B. STALLARD, M.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S.
3rd Edition. Pp. xii + 916, with 671 illustrations.
Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1958. 95s.

The name of Stallard needs no introduction as an ophthalmic surgeon of the highest international repute. Ever since the first edition of this volume appeared in October 1946 it has been recognized as one of the most comprehensive works in this field. It is essentially designed for the practising ophthalmologist, who will find within the text a clear description of almost all the ophthalmic operations and techniques in current usage.

The book has, in this edition, been thoroughly revised and brought up to date. In particular, the chapters on anaesthesia and corneal transplants bear mention as being the most advanced that I have come across in any book describing eye surgery. The annular corneal transplant in cases of a vascularized recipient cornea makes its appearance for the first time in an ophthalmic textbook.

Like all textbooks on any subject, it is not entirely without its faults. Some statements made dogmatically would not be generally agreed to, but these are few and in a work of this nature inevitable.

The author has made a point of stressing the principles of the surgical treatment of each section before delving into details on technique, another admirable feature of this book.

Finally, the illustrations, although these are practically all in black and white, could not have been better executed or better reproduced.

This volume is one of the classics of ophthalmic literature and deserves its place in all medical libraries, whilst the practising ophthalmologist should not be without it.

FRACTURES AND DISLOCATIONS

By GEORGE PERKINS, M.C., M.Ch., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii + 363, with 255 illustrations. London: The Athlone Press. 1958. 57s. 6d.

It was to be expected that a book by Professor Perkins would be distinguished by simple language, by a commonsense approach, by original ideas and by a certain dogmatism. In this book all four of these characteristics are shown. The writing is simple and concise and the book is in consequence a pleasure to read. The time-honoured clichés of fracture treatment have been swept away and their place is taken by an essentially practical and logical mode of thought. This is specially evident in the first 10 sections, which deal in general with fractures and with their complications. The approach to immobilization and the exposition of its function is masterly and this section alone will do much to clarify thought and to rationalize practice.

Of original ideas, the most striking is Professor Perkins's attempt—following in principle the techniques of Baedeker and of Michelin—to indicate for each fracture the degree of skill required of the doctor treating it. Few will agree with him that the general practitioner can safely and competently deal with a dislocated hip. Orthopaedic surgeons will be disappointed at finding themselves left with missile fractures of the skull, fractures of the maxilla, open fractures of the ribs, fracture-subluxations of the spine, fractures of the scaphoid, and certain fractures of the tibia and ankle. On the other hand, it is certain that much time and expense would be saved and (possibly) some disability avoided if many simple fractures were dealt with by general practitioners. Originality—or at least divergence from accepted practice—is shown also in many of the methods advocated. The reader will know that all the methods described have been subjected to the test of practice and he will constantly be reminded of the primary aim of restoration of function.

A certain amount of dogmatism is, of course, unavoidable in a short textbook, but it is perhaps unfortunate that no mention is made of the fact that abduction fractures of the neck of the femur may occasionally come to grief. A later radiograph may indeed come as a surprise to the surgeon who is unaware of this. Again, many will not agree that general treatment for delayed union should be given simply because it is expected by the public. The existence of other points of view could perhaps have been indicated by the provision of references as guides to further reading.

These small points of criticism really do not

detract from the value of a book which is brilliantly written, well produced and admirably illustrated. The student, the house surgeon and the general practitioner will find it specially valuable, and the registrar and the consultant will learn a lot from it. All those who have to deal with fractures—even those living in Liverpool and in Whitechapel—will wish to congratulate Professor Perkins on a great achievement.

APPLIED PHYSIOLOGY OF THE EYE

By H. WILLOUGHBY LYLE, M.D., F.R.C.S., assisted by T. KEITH LYLE, C.B.E., M.A., M.D., M.Chir., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. Pp. vii + 341, with 32 diagrams. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. Ltd. 1958. 45s.

This book encompasses physiology of the eye and its related structures. Great stress is laid on the neurophysiology and its clinical application, and is thus of not inconsiderable value to the practising ophthalmologist and student of ophthalmology. Unfortunately a section on colour vision is not included in the text. There are useful diagrammatic cross-sections of the brain stem not available in other textbooks of ophthalmic physiology. A most welcome inclusion in the text is a list of the Greek derivation of important words and ophthalmological eponyms.

This is a textbook which will gain its place amongst contemporary books on the physiology of the eye.

THE MATRIX OF MEDICINE

Ed. by NICOLAS MALLESON, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. xviii + 234. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1958. 45s.

This is a collection of essays about how the work of doctors should be related to the community in which they live, the whole being an elaboration of the opening phrase in the introduction: 'Medicine is a part of society.'

A lay member of a hospital committee, an intending social worker or a potential medical student in the sixth form at school will find the book stimulating. The idea behind the book is excellent, but this attempt at putting the idea across is unduly expensive at 45s.

THE STORY OF HEART DISEASE

By TERENCE EAST, M.A., D.M.(Oxon). Pp. 148, with 11 plates. Farnham: Wm. Dawson & Sons Ltd. 1958. 30s.

The FitzPatrick Lectures given before the Royal College of Physicians in 1956 and 1957 are here published in book form. They make a scholarly

and entertaining introduction to the history of cardiology and the four lectures deal successively with diagnosis, lessons of the dead house, the coronary circulation and failure of the circulation.

Dr. East, in each lecture, traces the evolution of his subject, from the first slow and fumbling steps in ancient and medieval times, through the observations of the great clinicians and pathologists of the 18th and 19th centuries to the present day. His story is largely told in the lives of the men who made it and often by quotations from their writings. He is singularly successful in bringing his subjects to life by brief word pictures, such as that of Skoda, '... a whimsical bachelor who lived in fear of his tailor and so never changed the fashion of his clothes,' or by a case report, as in Dr. Bucknill's moving account of the death of Thomas Arnold of Rugby.

This book is a rich mine of information and anecdote and is pleasantly produced and illustrated. It is impossible to read it without seeing the subject in better perspective and feeling a new respect for 'those who were before us.'

THE INTERFERENCE MICROSCOPE IN BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

By ARTHUR J. HALE, M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D. Pp. x + 114, with 95 diagrams. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1958. 20s.

Although interference microscopes of many different patterns have been proposed and indeed made, it is only recently that reliable, relatively simple commercial models have become available. Already they have been applied in many biological fields—from the growth of yeasts and bacteria to the estimation of enzymes. This book, by a logical consideration of the principles, value and limitations of the method and present instruments, fully succeeds in its aim of enabling the general worker to assess the application of the technique to his particular field.

M.V.S.

INTRODUCTION TO BIOSTATISTICS

By HUGH BANCROFT, Ph.D. Pp. x + 210, with 17 diagrams. London: Cassell & Co. Ltd. 1958. 42s.

The increasing importance of a knowledge of statistics in the practice of scientific medicine makes the appearance of a new introductory book on the subject a matter of some importance. Many of us rather resent the idea of handing our material, lock, stock and barrel, over to a specialist statistician for analysis and would prefer to acquire a basic working knowledge ourselves and consult with the specialist for advice when in difficulty.

This book fails to live up to early promise. After several very practical chapters on charts and graphs, it explains the really basic business of