

Diseases of the Retina

System of Ophthalmology. Vol. 10. Diseases of the Retina. Edited by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, G.C.V.O., F.R.S., and John H. Dobree. (Pp. 878+xv; illustrated. £10.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1967.

Fresh volumes of this stupendous work which will cover the entire field of ophthalmology steadily appear and Volume 10, the seventh of the projected 15, has now been published. This covers diseases of the retina, and to anyone not in close touch with ophthalmology it must seem remarkable that 859 pages are necessary for the text and illustrations covering only a small though very important fraction of the organ of sight.

The retina is the essential and most delicate portion of the eye, and since, apart from its blood vessels, it is composed solely of central nervous tissue of a high degree of anatomical and physiological complexity it is evident that it is capable of only very limited degrees of recovery from disease. Inflammations which produce local damage have permanent and often serious effect and only very transient interference of the circulation is consistent with complete recovery. Prolonged disturbances produce only death of the whole or part of this tissue, which is embryologically and in all respects a part of the brain.

Volume 10 deals fully not only with primarily retinal troubles, defects of circulation, inflammations, dystrophies, degenerations, and tumours but also with the many retinopathies associated with general diseases. Our knowledge of the last in particular remains very incomplete, partly because histopathological examination of the eye is generally impossible while the patient lives. Clearly there exists a vast opportunity for useful research in this field, for prevention could relieve many elderly people of severe disability. Already some progress has been achieved by fluorescein angiography of the living eye and by post-mortem injection of blood vessels and digestion of surrounding

tissues to demonstrate both normal and abnormal vasculature.

Volume 10, in which Mr. John Dobree has again collaborated, is, like its fellows, excellently written and illustrated. It may seem surprising that only 10% of the work is devoted to discussion of detachments of the retina, but the 80 pages provide a very fair review of this important and increasingly curable condition in which both intense light, photocoagulation, and intense cold, cryosurgery, can now be used to weld the torn retina to the choroid. Without doubt this is an exceptionally valuable book which must be in every medical library. Of all the volumes this will probably be the one which an ophthalmic surgeon will most frequently wish to consult, and it should certainly be available on his bookshelf.

HAROLD RIDLEY.

Architecture and Disability

Designing for the Disabled. 2nd edition. By Selwyn Goldsmith, M.A.(Cantab.), A.R.I.B.A. (Pp. 207; illustrated. £3 10s.) London: Royal Institute of British Architects. 1967.

The second edition of this important book has been extensively revised, and much of the philosophy behind the author's approach modified in the light of a study of the problems of the disabled population in Norwich and Taunton.

The extended introduction deserves careful study by doctors as well as architects, for, as Goldsmith points out, the aim of the medical man to help his disabled patient to achieve maximum independence differs from the lay worker's function to help the patient adjust to his handicap. The basic philosophy is that it should be accepted that disabled people have a disability, and that they should

not be expected to use all their energy trying to achieve independence. Most healthy people believe that the disabled ought to want to be as independent as possible, and that striving for independence is the only respectable and healthy way to react to disability. This is how the normal person hopes he would react if he were disabled. Dependence has a value of its own, and the doctrine that architects who design for disabled people must concentrate on the needs of independent disabled people has never been challenged.

The author distinguishes two classes of disability: ambulant and chairbound. The latter are far more disabled, tending to use public buildings very much less than the former, and usually only with an escort, because of the architectural barriers. As examples of such barriers he cites high kerbs, poor car-parking facilities, unsuitable lavatories, and the belief that special facilities for the disabled should not be signposted, as this draws attention to the disability. He suggests that two types of special recommendation be provided—for semiambulant wheelchair users and chairbound disabled. Elderly chairbound people living alone are the most handicapped by unsuitability of their dwelling. Although the community is better orientated towards disability than before the war, he believes that a strong tendency to regard the disabled as inferior still exists.

The main part of the book deals with the problems of specific disabilities in the home and their solution, with sections on anthropometrics, wheelchairs, staircases, lavatories, windows, kitchens, services, heating, electricity, and storage spaces. A new and valuable section on recommended practices for all public buildings accommodating disabled people should be obligatory reading by all architects and local authorities.

The book deserves a wide circulation, and the author is to be congratulated on combining the role of social anthropologist and practical designer.

C. B. WYNN PARRY.

Books Received

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.

Veterinary Parasitology. 2nd edition. By Geoffrey Lapage, M.D., M.Sc., M.A., F.Inst.Biol. Appendices by T. E. Gibson, D.V.Sc., F.R.C.V.S., and W. N. Beesley, M.Sc., Ph.D., M.I.Biol. (Pp. 1182+xvi; illustrated. £8 8s.) Edinburgh and London: Oliver & Boyd. 1968.

Studies in Psychiatry. A Survey of Work Carried Out in the Department of Psychiatry of the Institute of Psychiatry, under the Chairmanship of Sir Aubrey Lewis, 1945-66. Edited by Michael Shepherd, D.M., M.R.C.P., D.P.M., and D. L. Davies, D.M., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. (Pp. 345+xi; illustrated. 65s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1968.

The Plastic Surgery Atlas. Vol. 1. By Professor Mudr. Frantisek Burian. (Pp. 200+xv; illustrated. £21 set of three vols.) London: Butterworth. 1967.

The Plastic Surgery Atlas. Vol. 2. By Professor Mudr. Frantisek Burian. (Pp. 509+viii; illustrated. £21 set of three vols.) London: Butterworth. 1967.

The Plastic Surgery Atlas. Vol. 3. By Professor Mudr. Frantisek Burian. (Pp. 224+viii; illustrated. £21 set of three vols.) London: Butterworth. 1967.

Das Kallikrein-Kinin-System und seine Inhibitoren. By Professor Emil K. Frey, Professor Heinrich Kraut, and Professor Eugen Werle. (Pp. 290+xii; illustrated. DM. 65.) Stuttgart: Ferdinand Enke Verlag. 1968.

An Atlas of Pathologic Pneumoencephalographic Anatomy. By Giovanni di Chiro, M.D. With contributions by Mannie M. Schechter, M.D., and Ingmar Wickbom, M.D. (Pp. 555+xii; illustrated. \$49.50.) Springfield: Thomas. 1967.

The Billings Microscope Collection of the Medical Museum Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Edited by Helen R. Purtle, F.R.M.S., and John A. Ey, jun. (Pp. 210+ix; illustrated. No price stated.) Washington: American Registry of Pathology. 1967.

International Symposium Enzymatic Aspects of Metabolic Regulation. Held at Mexico City, Mexico, 28 November to 1 December 1966. Edited by M. P. Stulberg. (Pp. 343+xiii; illustrated. \$3.25.) Bethesda: National Cancer Institute. 1967.

Menthol and Menthol-containing External Remedies. Use, Mode of Effect, and Tolerance in Children. International Symposium, Paris, April 1966. Edited by Professor Dr. F. H. Dost and Professor Dr. B. Leiber. (Pp. 187+xi; illustrated. DM. 24.) Stuttgart: Thieme Verlag. 1967.

Intra-uterine Dangers to the Foetus. Based on an International Symposium, Prague, 11-14 October 1966. Edited by J. Horsky and Z. K. Stembera. (Pp. 615+xii; illustrated. £14 13s.) Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica Foundation. 1967.

Clinical Surgery: Orthopaedics. Edited by Charles Rob, M.C., M.Chir., F.R.C.S., Rodney Smith, M.S., F.R.C.S., and G. C. Lloyd-Roberts. (Pp. 575+viii; illustrated. £6 5s. Set volume price £4 10s.) London: Butterworth. 1967.

Psychopharmacology. Dimensions and Perspectives. Edited by C. R. B. Joyce. (Pp. 430+ix. 63s.) London: Tavistock Publications Ltd. 1968.

Current Concepts in Breast Cancer. Edited by Albert Segaloff, M.D., Kenneth K. Meyer, M.D., and Selma DeBaKey, B.A. (Pp. 378+xiii; illustrated. £7 12s. 6d.) Edinburgh: Livingstone. 1967.