LIBRI NOVI

Die Augenarzhelferin; ein Notizbuch für die Praxis. Von Dr. HANNELORE BORCHART, Duisburg. 1972. VIII, 208 Seiten, 26 Abbildungen, Format 12 × 18.5 cm., Snolin DM 19,80. Schattauer-Praxis-Bücherei Band 3.

This handy booklet answers almost any question posed by the inexperienced secretary in ophthalmic practice. The behaviour of the ideal (German) secretary is discussed, as is the maintenance of the instruments and the use of the card-index system.

Rules for first-aid and basic principles of ophthalmology are explained. A glossary of ophthalmic expressions closes the book. The German language obviously limits the use of this in itself recommendable booklet.

D. A. E. MERTENS

The corneal light reflex; a guide to binocular disorders, by F. KRIMSKY. Springfield, Thomas, 1972.

The corneal light reflex surely is one of the important guides in the examination of binocular disorders and it is a pleasure to read about the meticulous way the author uses this method. It seems however to be out of proportion to base a textbook of strabology on the corneal light reflex alone.

The author mentions the limitations of the examination of the corneal light reflex but nevertheless stresses too much the importance of this examination in comparison with subjective methods. The examination of the fixation with the star-test is not even mentioned. The angle kappa is given insufficient attention and the differentiation versus excentric fixation is done with by the mere mentioning of unsteadiness of fixation in the latter case.

The edition of this book and its layout suggest a very high cost. The very beautiful photographs not always give the information that schematic drawings would have given.

Several topics of strabology are approached from a very unconventional point of view e.g. orthophoria (page 40), pseudo paralysis (page 63), classification of strabismus (chapter 13), terminology in ocular paralysis (chapter 17),

retinal correspondence (chapter 21). As far as the recensent is concerned this approach confuses rather than clarifies the apprehension.

Several instruments are described; some of them with a modification of the author. The relation with the examination of the corneal light reflex is sometimes far fetched.

The exaggerated appreciation of the corneal light reflex by the author is expressed on page 114: 'pinpointing of the corneal light reflexes at their respective foveal pupillary positions is objective evidence that the eyes are seeing bifoveally'. This is relativated in the following text again but this concept is the leading motive in the whole book.

Although all good books and especially those which present new ideas have to be welcomed, it is legitimate to ask: 'Do we need this book?' The recensent cannot answer this in the affirmative.

A. TH. M. VAN BALEN