Controversial Aspects of the Management of Retinal Detachment

This book is the outcome of the International conference of the Retina Foundation of Boston, held in May, 1962. The papers and discussions have been edited by Doctors C. L. Schepps and C. D. J. Regan, who state in the preface that they, "have attempted to point out the areas of controversy in the subjects considered and at the same time to minimise the confusion which might puzzle the reader with limited experience in the problems discussed". It is unfortunate that it should have taken three years to present the work of this conference in a form that has lost the impact of the original presentation without gaining the organization of a text-book.

The book is divided into four sections, pre-operative examination, treatment, complications and pathology, and post-operative management and results. Each paper is followed by a discussion section. This arrangement provides some artificial barriers, strikingly obvious to the use of the title, "Complications". It is such a full exposition of pupillary block in aphakia, with a discussion of its effects on aqueous circulation and the manoeuvres employed to overcome the consequent shallow anterior chamber. Other interesting topics include corneal oedema, post-operative anterior synchia, flat chamber, glaucoma, and medical complications. The operative technique of the division of anterior synchia and treatment of flat chamber is minutely described, but the technique of cyclodialysis which is a controversial subject, is omitted.

Cataract extraction in the presence of complicating circumstances is considered; these include previous keratoplasty and glaucoma surgery, congenital cataract and lens displacement. Though not strictly within the compass of the title these are interesting contributions. Though not a systematic treatise, the book is of value to the discerning reader, and enlivens the subject with a refreshing diversity of opinion.

Complications after Cataract Surgery

This book is a collection of essays by thirty-one contributors, mostly American, under the editorship of Frederick H. Theodore. Each author gives his personal views on a subject of which he has particular experience, chosen within the general framework of the title, "Complications after Cataract Surgery". The style varies from the discursive essay of Arthur Linksz on the "Optical Complications of Aphakia", to the terse, valuable chapter on the "Pathogenesis of Complications following Cataract Surgery" by A. Marvin Gillman, whose tightly packed sentences make heavy reading.

The standard of contributions is high, and the subjects well, though unevenly covered. The nature of the book is such as to commend it strongly to those with a groundwork of knowledge. The chapters on post-operative infection from the diagnostic, therapeutic and prophylactic points of view, contain many new ideas of importance to the practising surgeon. Post-operative mycotic endophthalmitis, culture of anterior chamber aspirates, the place of steroids, and the choice of local and systemic antibiotic combinations are amongst matters discussed.

Recent Advances in Gastroenterology

During the past twenty years advances in our knowledge of gastroenterology have been so rapid and so extensive that it is difficult even for the practising gastroenterologist to keep pace with all of them.

"Recent Advances in Gastroenterology" fills a gap in the literature on this subject and the Editors are to be congratulated in their choice of subjects and in the manner of their presentation. It is hoped that the book will be re-edited at regular, and not infrequent, intervals.

This work reviews many recent developments in gastroenterology from a clinical aspect, and covers the more scientific aspects of recent advances in language not too technical for the average clinician. It is recommended to practising gastroenterologists, to clinicians practising general medicine and surgery, and to examiners and examinees.

No reference library in a hospital where general medicine and surgery are practised should be without it.

The Year Book of General Surgery (1964-1965 Year Book Series)

The Year Book of General Surgery 1964-1965 series from Chicago "makes available in detailed abstract form the working essence of the cream of recent international medicoscientific literature". Its distinguished editor is Dr. De Bakey. 120 of the 600 odd pages are devoted to the Heart and Vessels and 200 to the Abdomen.