Manual of Common Ophthalmic Surgical Procedures, edited by Charles D. Phelps and Hansjoerg E.J.W. Kolder. Pp. xiv + 189, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1986. £33.00.

Although ophthalmic surgery is essentially learned by assisting and copying the techniques of experienced surgeons, there is clearly a need for written guidance to help beginners. This compact manual aims to provide this by giving up-to-date accounts of surgical procedures likely to be carried out by most 'general' ophthalmic surgeons.

The contents cover a broad range, with chapters on anterior segment surgery, retinal detachment, strabismus, and a section on oculo-plastic procedures of the lids and adnexae. The emphasis throughout is on a stepwise description of the author's preferred techniques, each prefaced by a

short paragraph on principles and pre-operative management. There is plenty of advice on how to avoid the pitfalls and complications, although discussion on the management of these is kept to a minimum. The section on argon laser treatment for glaucoma and posterior segment disease is especially useful as this is rarely included in the standard 'surgical' manuals.

The text, on the whole, is easy to follow and is well complemented by clear, well-drawn diagrams. The only exception is the important chapter on cataract surgery, which is handicapped by lack of illustrations.

Minor criticisms apart, this manual succeeds in its aim. It contains sufficient depth of information on a broad range of surgery to enable the beginner to build up his expertise, and should be an asset to all ophthalmologists in training.

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Books Received

Atlas of Clinical Gastroenterology, edited by J.J. Misiewicz, C.I. Bartram, P.B. Cotton, A.S. Mee, A.B. Price, R.P.H. Thompson. Illustrated. Edward Arnold, Gower Medical Publishing London, New York, 1987. £57.50.

Biostatistics in Clinical Medicine, Second edition, edited by J.A. Ingelfinger, F. Mosteller, L.A. Thibodeau, J.H. Ware. Pp. xxiv + 339 paperback. Macmillan Publishing Co, New York, Toronto, London, 1987. £25.

Jeffcoate's Principles of Gynaecology (5th Edition), edited by V.R. Tindall. Pp. 722, illustrated. Butterworth Scientific, London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1987. £45.

Just a Word Doctor, Bernard J. Freedman. Pp. xii + 131 (paperback), illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1987. £4.95.

Medicines in the Marketplace, D.G. Green. Pp. xii + 80. T.H. ILA Health Unit, London, 1987. £5.95.

Winnicott & Paradox – from birth to creation, edited by A. Clancier & J. Kalmanovitch. Pp. xvii + 174, paperback. Tavistock Publications, London, New York, 1987.