The preferable modern nomenclature is class II MHC (major histocompatibility complex) antigens. It is to these antigens that we refer.

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Beauvaria bassiana keratitis

SIR, I read with great interest the article on *Beauvaria bassiana* keratitis by S W Sachs, J Baum, and C Mies,[1] particularly because I and my colleagues reported a case of fungal keratitis due to *Beauveria bassiana* previously.[1] I think ours was the first case of *Beauveria bassiana* keratitis, though our paper mainly reported the effects of intravenous miconazole against fungal keratitis.

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Book reviews

Child Health Care Communications. Eds. WILLIAM K FRANKENBURG AND SUSAN M THORNTON. Pp. 385. £46·00. Praeger: New York. 1984.

In the forward Dr Robert Haggerty states: 'But it is clear from several studies that many of us—even experienced clinicians have large gaps in our communication skills. We do not listen well, we are often too judgmental, we do not alter our technique to meet different needs of our patients, and we do not do enough positive reinforcement of desired behaviors. The litany of faults in our communication skills could be very long. As a result, we do not achieve success in helping patients follow advice, and we do not integrate the skills of our disciplines for the patient's benefit.' This book attempts to emphasise aspects of communication between parents, children, and doctors, and of doctors between themselves and other people involved in the care of children. Its aims are thoroughly laudable, and despite its being the result of a colloquium it makes quite good reading. Unfortunately the price is likely to make it out of the reach of most ophthalmologists in the United Kingdom, but, if they could get hold of it, it would be a worthwhile browse for any of us involved in the care of children.

DAVID TAYLOR

Comparative Neurology of the Optic Tectum. Edited by HORACIO VANEGAS. Pp. 850. US$125·00. Plenum: New York. 1984.

This massive volume on the optic tectum presents current information from an assortment of interesting laboratories. Initiated by workers from Brazil and Puerto Rico and catalysed by a research group at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, the book includes chapters by workers mainly in America but also Europe and Russia. The information about the tectum is immense, with chapters on development, neurophysiology, behavioural capacity, anatomy, and neuropharmacology. The book concentrates on the avian, elasmobranch, and reptilian tectum, though there are two extensive chapters on the mammalian superior colliculus.

The mammalian superior colliculus (Huerta and Harting) has been studied by all available investigative techniques. These include anterograde and retrograde transport mechanisms with either light or electron microscopic evaluation. It is interesting that the colliculus, like the geniculate, is a lamellar structure, and receives a retinal input of both Y and W cells, though the input of X cells remains controversial.

This book demonstrates again the great fascination of the visual system for research workers, and though of little practical value to the clinician it is only by keeping abreast of research today that we can improve the aspirations of our patients tomorrow.

M D SANDERS

MBL Lectures in Biology. Vol. 5. **The Visual System.** Eds. ALAN FEIN AND JOSEPH S LEVINE. Pp. 198. £34·00. Alan R Liss: New York. 1985.

This is a "Festschrift" in honour of Edward MacNichol, aged 65, the director of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, who, to judge by the preface, is expected to go on for many more happy and productive years. He himself is one of 25 contributors to a symposium which, in spite of its title, dealt almost exclusively with the retina, especially the photoreceptors. There is new information here, but also traces of déjà-vu, and, though the direct clinical relevance of some of the collected papers is circumscribed, the overall quality of the production of the book makes it highly commendable.

ROBERT WEALE