BOOK NOTICES

Thirteenth Annual Report of the Memorial Ophthalmic Laboratory, Giza, Cairo. Cairo: Schindler's Press. Price, P.T. 35. 1938.

R. P. Wilson, who has been Director of the Memorial Ophthalmic Laboratory of Egypt since its inauguration, is responsible for this admirable report on the teaching and pathological work carried on under his direction. A wealth of material is obtained from the 68 permanent hospitals or ophthalmic sections of general hospitals, together with the 15 travelling ophthalmic hospitals under canvas. It is improbable that any ophthalmic laboratory in the world can have had the opportunity of examining 74 malignant tumours of the eye and its adnexa in a single year.

Considerable attention has been paid to the treatment of trachoma by the sulphonamides. Their effect on palpebral manifestations is disappointing; such improvement as, on occasion, may occur is due to their action on the element of mixed infection. As regards the results obtained from the action of the different varieties of the sulphonamides one cannot say that any one gave better results than another; the result in all cases was unsatisfactory.

However, there is a different story to tell when the drug is used to treat the recurrent attacks of trachomatous keratitis, which are common in the East. Here the results, at any rate the immediate ones, are excellent.

The course of Koch-Weeks conjunctivitis did not appear to be shortened by the administration of sulphonamides, although acute gonococcal conjunctivitis responded most satisfactorily.

Spring catarrh is very common in Egypt, of course in conjunction with trachoma. This has been under investigation by the Director's assistant, Maxwell Lyons, whose researches have been recorded in this Journal in previous years. He has no doubt that the condition is a local manifestation of some general disorder, putting it into a category beyond the normal province of the ophthalmologist as regards its aetiology and radical treatment; an opinion which is not universal.

CORRESPONDENCE

TRACHOMA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

SIRS,—The letter, following from Sir James Barrett seems of sufficient importance to justify publication, especially in view of the

last paragraph dealing with trachoma in Southern Australia. It is very satisfactory to hear that it is, there, a disappearing disease.

Yours truly,

HAROLD GRIMSDALE.

DEAR MR. GRIMSDALE,—In the third edition of your Ophthalmic Operations there appears a kindly notice of the operation for entropion by Orr and myself.

It resulted from a visit to the East and experience of the Anagostakis operation. Your criticism that the sliding down of the upper lid might leave a raw edge is natural and occurred to us. But as a matter of fact it does not occur, and the real difficulty is to slide down sufficiently. After a very short time the readjustment occurs.

I have done very many of these operations which can be repeated if necessary and have never felt inclined to perform any other.

But trachoma is now in Southern Australia a disappearing disease for some reason, but when years ago I commenced practice it was the disease which took most of my time. It still exists in some quantity in the western part of New South Wales and Queensland which are very dry, dusty and at times arid.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES W. BARRETT.

MELBOURNE,

December 2, 1940.

NOTES

American Journal of
Ophthalmology

DR. LAWRENCE T. POST retired from the post of editor in chief of the *American Journal of Ophthalmology* at the end of last year. Dr. Post has held his important post for nearly ten years. He is succeeded by Dr. Derrick Vail. We send our best wishes to Dr. Vail and to the Journal.

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Research in
Ophthalmology

It was recently announced that Lord Nuffield has given £25,000 to the University of Oxford in order to encourage research in ophthalmology. We understand that a Research Assistant is to be appointed to the Margaret Ogilvie Reader in Ophthalmology, and at the same time equipment and other facilities for the conduct of research will be provided. This is a matter for congratulation and the hearty thanks of British ophthalmology will go out to Lord Nuffield for his generosity.