BOOK NOTICE

Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom. Vol. LXIV (1944). London: J. and A. Churchill, Ltd. 1945.

The Transactions in common with all other Journals and people have felt the strain of the war years. The present volume is the thinnest of the series and it has come out at such a distance of time from the Annual Congress of nearly two years ago, that members may well be forgiven if they have forgotten about much of the contents.

The meagreness of the volume is partly due to war paper, but also to the fact that there were no Transactions of the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress for inclusion.

Dr. Traquair's masterly presidential address on "the nerve-fibre bundle defect," and the discussions on ocular psychoneuroses and on virus diseases of the eye find a place in this volume, together with other papers, and the Transactions of the North of England, Midland and Irish Ophthalmological Societies.

Sir Richard Cruise's paper on preventable blindness in war read at the 1940 Congress makes a belated appearance in this volume.

The title has been printed lengthways up the spine as the binders were unable to do otherwise with such a thin volume.

We hope that the volume for 1945 will be more substantial in size.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

DEAR SIRs,—The paper by Air Commodore Keith Lyle and Wing Commander A. Cross on dacryo-cysto-rhinostomy in the February number of the *Brit. Jl. Ophthal.*, is both interesting and pleasing, particularly so is the support the authors rightly give to an operation, the results of which are on the whole good.

There are a few small technical details unmentioned in their valuable paper which I think are helpful. These are (1) an injection of 0.5 c.c. of novutox, 3 per cent. and adrenalin beneath the nasal mucosa over the site of the lacrimal bone so as to carry the muco-periosteum away from the bone, thus reducing the risk of damage to the mucosa when cutting out an oval window of bone. (2) Tilting the table so that the head is on a higher level than the feet lessens the bleeding. (3) A modified Briggs' retractor with a slot in the temporal arm for the insertion of a guard protects the lacrimal sac from injury during the work on the bone. (4) Removal of the anterior lacrimal crest by chiselling and nibbling affords good

access for the subsequent bone work. (5) To date I have found that the most satisfactory way of removing the oval window of bone from the lacrimal fossa is by using a motor driven dental drill carrying a 0.5 mm. rose-headed burr. A series of burr holes is made about 2 mm. apart to outline the piece of bone for removal. These holes are then enlarged by a 1 mm. rose-headed burr and then all the holes are joined together by a lateral fissure burr. The oval window of bone comes out in one piece. With careful work there is no damage done to the underlying nasal mucosa and the edges of the hole are smooth and eburnated. If there is any troublesome oozing from the nasal mucosa through the burr holes a little adrenalin may be injected through the holes. (6) At the end of operation a specially sewn pyramidal pad with its truncated apex placed against the wound is strapped in place.

The whole operation can be done by the eye surgeon. The bone work is not difficult after a little practice on a cadaver.

Yours faithfully,

H. B. STALLARD.

NOTES

Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom. Annual Congress, 1946 THE Annual Congress will be held at the Royal Society of Medicine on May 30, 31 and June 1, 1946. The President's address will be on Purkinje and the subject for discussion is "Ocular Disturbances Associated with Malnutrition."

The Bowman Lecture will be delivered by Dr. Arnold Knapp; his subject is "Intracapsular Extraction of Cataract."

There will be a joint clinical meeting with the Ophthalmological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine. The Annual Dinner is resumed, and will be held on Thursday evening, May 30.

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The Middle East Optical Practitioners' Group IN the Middle East a number of service opticians formed a "study group." Their Transactions for 1945 consist of published abstracts of lectures given to the group during 1945, nine by eye surgeons and six by opticians. Membership of the group includes eight eye surgeons and twelve optical practitioners.

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Corrigendum Meningioma of the Tuberculum Sellae with Bi-temporal Hemianopia. By W. R. Mathewson. February number. (1) End of para. 1 Allan *not* Allen.