

very distinct subgroup, for they differ from cases of congenital nystagmus with compensatory head shaking.² In the first place the wave form of congenital nystagmus usually consists of much lower frequency oscillations interrupted by saccade-like movements. In addition the compensatory type of head shaking in congenital nystagmus accompanies a modification of the nystagmus rather than a total suppression.¹ Perhaps the most distinctive difference symptomatically is that visual acuity in congenital nystagmus is relatively preserved and enhanced during head shaking. In contrast, visual acuity in our patients with high frequency oscillatory nystagmus was markedly impaired.

Alternatively, as we believed of the patient we reported, all 3 children may be examples of spasmus nutans. If this is so and the classical descriptions of spasmus nutans are comprehensive, then they should eventually resolve.³ Unfortunately we have been unable to follow up this possibility, so we cannot firmly make a diagnosis of spasmus nutans (as it is commonly understood) in these 3 patients. Nevertheless, for the reason that we have found a distinct pattern of head/eye co-ordination in these 3 patients we suggest that they do constitute a distinct nosological entity.

Three distinct patterns of head and eye co-ordination in children who suffer congenital nystagmus or the onset of nystagmus from an early age are now recognised.² There is a head tremor with nystagmus in which the head movements are involuntary and in no way assist vision. There are children with compensatory head movements and nystagmus in whom the head shaking modifies the nystagmus so that vision is improved. The third type is the one we have tentatively termed spasmus nutans in which head shaking abolishes the nystagmus. These 3 would seem to cover the logical possibilities of the combinations of head and eye movements and as such provide a basis for objective classification of nystagmus and nodding. We would welcome reports on the long-term progress of such patients so that this classification, according to objective criteria, may eventually be used as a guide for prognosis.

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Correction

SIR, Since the publication of our article¹ describing 3 patients with corneal ulceration due to *Branhamella catarrhalis*, we have become aware of a previously reported case.²

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Book reviews

Colour Vision Deficiencies. Vol. 5. Ed. G. VERRIEST. Pp. 410. £40.00. Adam Hilger: Bristol. 1980.

The regularity with which *Colour Vision Deficiencies* appears is as baffling to the reader as it must be gratifying to the distinguished editor. Is it possible that the subject should be making such vast strides as to merit a tome every year?

If one really reads the book then one notes by way of answer that the title is misleading. Some of the contributions do not mention the subject (cf. Creutzfeldt, Stell, etc.). Others (e.g. Cobb and Shaw) write about its non-existence. Some papers are highly informative even if they deal with colour vision rather than its defects. However, the level of the papers is so unequal that one is bound to feel sorry for the wheat that is mixed up with the chaff. This report of the symposium held in Teddington in June 1979 illustrates that, if one has paid one's registration fee, one can attend the meeting, but fails to prove that all contributions have to appear in print. Just because the printed page cannot scream is no reason to make it suffer. And a 2-page index to a 400-page book is of arguable value.

ROBERT WEALE

A Singular View (Revised). By FRANK B. BRADY. Pp. 144. \$15.50. Medical Economics Company: Oradell, New Jersey. 1979.

This book is clearly written and easy to read. It has an American style of expression aimed at an American readership, but is well set out in appropriate chapters to show the newly one-eyed patient how to overcome many problems. There are a few unimportant inaccuracies in description of clinical conditions and diagrams, but these do not detract from the general usefulness of the book. It is also useful reading for the ophthalmologist, as it sets out many aspects of the advice to be given to such patients, which may not have been so clearly appreciated before. M. J. ROPER-HALL

Atlas of External Diseases of the Eye. Vol. 3. Cornea and Sclera. 2nd edn. By DONALD D. DONALDSON. Pp. 506. £61.50. YB Medical Publishers: London. 1980.

This second edition of volume III is an extremely well illustrated atlas of external disorders of the cornea and sclera. Text covers them well and comprises a compact account of each disorder, often followed by the author's case reports illustrating the disorder together with their photographic representations in monochrome. The descriptions are concisely and clearly written, thus giving the reader readily assimilated details. The photography depicting each disorder is excellent, and most readers will learn a

lot by studying the photographs. This updated edition merits a place in every library despite some of the dated forms of management (given in the text) which are acknowledged to be so by the author.

IAN M. DUGUID

Notes

Institute of Ophthalmology

The following courses will be held at the Institute of Ophthalmology during 1981:

	Fee
3-4 September	Revision Course in Eyelid and Lacrimal Surgery £60
28 September for 9 months	General Course in Ophthalmology £4500
8-9 October	Microsurgery Course £100
19-23 October	General Practitioners' Course in Ophthalmology
26 October	Diabetic Eye Day £30
2-6 November	Paediatric Ophthalmology Course £125
9-13 November	Contact Lens Practice Course £100
17-18 November	Clinical Occupational Medicine Course £60
30 November to 2 December	Indications and Techniques in the Ophthalmic Management of Retinal Vascular Disease £75

Applications to attend the General Practitioners' Course in Ophthalmology should be made to the GP Department, British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 14 Ulster Place, London NW1 5HD. Applications for the Microsurgery Course should be made to the Microsurgery Course Secretary, Professorial Unit, Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PD. Applications for other courses should be made to the Dean, Institute of Ophthalmology, Cayton Street, London EC1V 9AT.

International Association of Ocular Surgeons

The inaugural meeting of the International Association of Ocular Surgeons will be held at Monte Carlo on 11-17 October 1981. Details from the IAOS, 6 N Michigan Avenue, Suite 1110, Chicago, IL 60602, USA.

Metabolic ophthalmology

The International Society on Metabolic Eye Disease will give a merit award to the best contribution in the field of metabolic ophthalmology. Manuscripts are to be submitted not later than 15 November 1981 (1 original and 4 copies) to: Heskell M. Haddad, MD, Editor-in-Chief, *Metabolic and Pediatric Ophthalmology*, 1200 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10029, USA. The selected work will be presented and given the merit award at the fifth symposium of the International Society on Metabolic Eye Disease in New York City, 24-26 October 1982. All other submitted manuscripts will be considered for presentation at the fifth symposium.

Microsurgery

The International Workshop on Microsurgery will be held in Singapore on 22-28 November 1981. This meeting is jointly organised by the Royal Australian College of

Ophthalmologists, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, and the Academy of Medicine, Singapore. As participation is limited. Details from The Organising Secretary, Suite 0609, 6th Floor, Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre, Mount Elizabeth, Singapore 0922.

Cornea and lens

The Department of Ophthalmology of the University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, will hold a symposium on 'A current evaluation of extracapsular extraction, aphakia correction, refractive surgery, and keratoplasty' on 2-4 December 1981 at the Hyatt Regency, San Francisco. Details from Extended Programs in Medical Education, University of California School of Medicine, Room 569-U, San Francisco, California 94143, USA.

Neuro-ophthalmology

A neuro-ophthalmology course will be presented by the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami School of Medicine, on 3-5 December 1981 at Key Biscayne Hotel, Miami, Florida. Details from Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, PO Box 610326, Miami, Florida 33161, USA.

Biomaterials

The 8th Annual Meeting of the Society for Biomaterials and the 14th International Biomaterials Symposium will be held on 24-27 April 1982 at the Contemporary Resort Hotel, Walt Disney World, near Orlando, Florida, USA. The meeting will provide a forum for the presentation of recent findings concerning (1) the physicochemical and biological characterisation of biomaterials, and (2) efficacy testing of medical and dental devices and materials. Studies focusing on the structure and properties of natural biological materials will also be presented. Details from Dr Myron Spector, Biological and Physical Sciences, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina 29425, USA.

Viennese workshop

The first Viennese Workshop of the Austrian Section of the International College of Surgeons will be held in Vienna on 3-6 October 1982. Details from PO Box 9, A-1095 Vienna, Austria.

Evoked potentials

The Second International Evoked Potentials Symposium will be held on 18-20 October 1982 at Cleveland, Ohio, USA. Papers are welcome covering all aspects of evoked potentials: auditory, visual, somatosensory, psychological correlates, pharmacological agents, basic research, clinical applications, etc. Deadline for titles is 18 November 1981. Details from Phillip R. Gard, Center for Continuing Medical Education, Cleveland Clinic Educational Foundation, 9500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106, USA.



Atlas of External Diseases of the Eye

Ian M. Duguid

Br J Ophthalmol 1981 65: 511-512

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