
Lemoine's experiments were performed on rabbits, in order to find out whether ethylhydro-cuprein could be injected into the anterior chamber or vitreous, in sufficient strength to inhibit a pneumococcus infection without destroying the ocular tissue. Fifteen experiments were done with the following results. Optochin, when injected into the vitreous, even in very small quantities, destroys the sight of the eye by causing spasm of the arteries with subsequent optic atrophy and loss of pupil reflex. A quantity of the drug sufficient to produce this effect will not inhibit the growth of pneumococci in the vitreous. When 0.20 c.c. of a 1:100 solution was injected into the anterior chamber, it did not impair the physiological function of the eye, but it inhibited the growth of pneumococci which had been injected into the anterior chamber twenty minutes previously. Such a procedure would therefore seem to be justified in pneumococcal infection of the anterior chamber following ulcers, perforating wounds of the cornea or operative procedure.

F. A. WILLIAMSON-NOBLE.

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**BOOK NOTICES**


The Italian Society of Ophthalmology (Società Italiana di Oftalmologia), which was founded in 1924, held its Second Annual Congress in Rome in October, 1925. It issues the Proceedings of the Congress as a well-produced volume of 380 pages, with several plates, some in colour. One notes, however, that the irritating practice of issuing books with uncut pages is not yet extinct.

The Congress was presided over by Senator Professor Giuseppe Cirincione of Rome, and the inaugural sitting was attended by the Minister of Education. In his inaugural address, Professor Cirincione announced that following the resolution passed by the 1924 Congress the Public Health Department (Sanità del Regno) had agreed to make itself responsible for the prophylaxis of ophthalmia neonatorum.

The President next referred to three eminent Italian opthalmologists who had died since the last Congress: Ferruccio Tartuferi of Bologna, Alessandro Algieri of Salonika, and Allessandro Montalcini of Turin. Of Tartuferi he recalled that
besides being an eminent clinician and operator he did an immense amount of important work on the minute anatomy of the nervous apparatus of vision, especially applying the methods of his former teacher, Golgi.

The Minister of Education welcomed the members, and presented the gold medals of the Society to Professors Albertotti and Baquis.

In the scientific sittings which followed 104 communications were made. Many of these were of the greatest interest and importance, and some will be abstracted in this journal, including the prize theses on the anatomy and embryology of the hyaloid membrane by Dr. Dejean of Montpellier, on tuberculosis of the choroid by Dr. Cattaneo of Rome, and on the anatomical basis of the scotometric appearances of the blind spot by Dr. Scullica of Sassari.

Those at the first sitting were concerned with cataract, and it was decided that one of the subjects for discussion at the 1926 Congress should be the treatment of cataract by medical means.

Of peculiar interest to English readers is a communication by Professor Albertotti on correspondence between W. H. Fox Talbot and Gian Battista Amici. The friendship between these two began in 1822 when Talbot went to Modena to obtain one of the immersion microscopes which Amici had designed. In 1841, Fox Talbot perfected his "calotype" process of making photographic pictures on paper. In the following year Amici made a communication to an Italian scientific society on Fox Talbot's researches, and the present communication consists of two unpublished letters from the English scientist and twenty-one of his "calotype" pictures, in the possession of Professor Albertotti. Of these pictures, two (reproduced in the Proceedings) Professor Albertotti has presented to the French Institute of Photography; the remaining nineteen, with the letters, he has presented to the University of Modena.

**Gunshot Injuries of the Eye in the War.** Dissertation for the Degree of M.D. by N. J. SHIMKIN. Delivered at the University of Kieff. Published at Odessa, 1917.

The book, in the Russian language, is dedicated by the author to his wife and contains 357 pages.

The author shows himself to be a keen observer and a constructive thinker. The book is very interesting and contains many references to other writers, among them White Cooper, Lawson and Ramsay from this country. There are also good, accurate drawings of the fundus, showing the results of contusion. The reviewer had the advantage of seeing Shimkin's original drawings. They were done in colour and were exceedingly good. Altogether
he discusses 241 cases—some of his own, some of Professor Shimanofsky, etc. He emphasizes the point that in contusion of the eyeball the chief sufferer is the uvea, and that opacities of the lens and haemorrhages of the vitreous are specially dependent upon the state of the uvea.

He was working practically without any accommodation, and had to rely chiefly on his own skill and experience, as, owing to the bureaucratic methods and neglect of the Army Medical Department, ophthalmic aid at the front was never organized. The reviewer can certify as to this from his own bitter experience.

First aid, in Shimkin's opinion, should be an aseptic dressing and immediate evacuation. All the necessary operations should be performed in hospitals 20 to 25 miles behind the fighting line. The giant electro-magnet should be easily available. (As a matter of fact such magnets were available only in Kieff and Odessa and had to serve for the whole of the south Russian front. The soldier would only arrive there seven to ten days after being wounded! Reviewer.)

It is pointed out that the number of eye wounds in this war is greater than in preceding wars and that they are more numerous in open battle than in trench warfare. Bullet injuries are more damaging to the orbit than shell wounds, because of the explosive action of the bullet. The mortality is high. As regards direct wounds of the eyeball, the kinetic energy of the foreign body is usually so great that the damage done is irreparable.

Shimkin advises against the use of atropin in the early stage, because of the already decreased tension, and recommends the use of miotics. Of 100 eye wounds, the result in 70 per cent. was uniocular blindness, and in 11 per cent. binocular blindness. Sympathetic ophthalmitis is not seen as frequently as formerly, thanks to rational treatment and early enucleation, and may be expected to be less than 1 per cent. of all cases in this war.

The most interesting and important part of the book consists of the theory and clinical features of contusion of the eyeball. Special chapters are devoted to traumatic neuroses of the eyes (uniocular diplo- and polyopia) and to wounds of the cortex cerebri and of the occipital lobes.

Report of the Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras, 1925.

By Major R. E. Wright, Superintendent. Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1926. Price, 1 rupee, 4 annas

The main features of the valuable reports of the Madras Hospital are well known to our readers. The report for last year, by Major Wright, adds one more to the growing series of these statistical publications.
A new feature is the appointment of a private practitioner, Dr. G. Zachariah, a member of the staff of this State hospital for the year in question; he was placed in charge of 30 beds.

The report shows a diminution in the number of cataract operations; this is not due to any falling off in the number of such cases, but to the fact that many more cases are dealt with each year in the districts of the Presidency, where ophthalmic clinics and teaching centres are being developed.

Space does not allow of our calling attention to the important research work that is being undertaken by the Superintendent and his subordinates; we note that the results will be published elsewhere in the near future. Of the more interesting cases recorded, mention may be made of a case of granuloma of the orbit due to an aspergillus of unknown species; some unusual cases of herpes zoster and herpes in facial paralysis; and cases of macular keratitis of the type described by Kirkpatrick. Some illustrations are appended.

A large part of the report is purely statistical, the facts tabulated being, as usual, very complete.

NOTES

We regret to record the death, in his 62nd year, of Dr. David Ewart, O.B.E., Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Royal West Sussex Hospital, Chichester.

From the chronicle of the Italian friar Salimbene, cir. 1285, referred to by Coulton in his Social Life in Britain from the Conquest to the Reformation, we learn: “Wherefore the French have blood-shot eyes; for from their ever-free potations of wine their eyes become red-rimmed, and bleared and bloodshot. And in the early morning, after they have slept off their wine, they go with such eyes to the priest who has celebrated Mass, and pray him to drop into their eyes the water wherein he has washed his hands. But Brother Bartolommeo Guiscola of Parma was wont to say at Provins (as I have often heard with mine own ears) ‘Ale, ke malonta ve don Dè; metti de l’aighe in le vins, non in lis ocli’; which is to say: ‘Go; God give you evil speed! Put the water in your wine when ye drink it, and not in your eyes!’”