invasion of the cornea during gonococcal conjunctivitis or similar infection.

Phlyctenular keratitis "so-called because the anatomical element thereof is not a phlycten," is another term derided by the writer, who also tilts at the terms Descemetitis (surely obsolete in English textbooks); blepharo-conjunctivitis; kerato-conjunctivitis; ocular contusion, which can have no claim to scientific or clinical accuracy; traumatic choroido-retinitis; and myopic choroiditis.

His concern is not with a vain discussion about words, but with a desire that the term employed should correspond with the condition to which it is applied.

J. B. Lawford.

BOOK NOTICES


This short work by Professor A. Elschnig of Prague on intra-capsular cataract extraction forms an addendum to the chapter on the operations for cataract which he contributed to the volume on eye operations in the Graef-Saemisch Handbuch, published ten years ago.

Since the pioneer work of Pagenstecher and Colonel Henry Smith new methods in technique have been evolved, and what he regards as the most important of various modifications he has combined under the name of the Knapp-Török-Elschnig operation (simple, and combined with iridectomy). This he describes with meticulous attention to detail, not only in the preparation of the field of operation (laying stress on the vital importance of the bridle-stitch through the superior rectus tendon, retrobulbar injection, and akinesia by the van Lint-Rochat method) but also in the steps of the operation, the complications that may arise in the course of and after, the operation, and the methods of dealing with them.

He then gives a description of the operations of Pagenstecher, Colonel Smith (with the indications for their employment) and Barraquer and of various modifications of extraction with the blunt capsule forceps.

He concludes with a consideration of the general and special indications for intra-capsular extraction, and with some anatomical and clinical observations on the subject.

The author here presents a comprehensive survey of recent work together with an extensive bibliography, and provides an admirable book of reference and guidance in an operation which, because of the safety and ease with which it can be carried out, he claims, every ophthalmic surgeon can and should practise.

"Practical Questions on the Subject of Miners' Nystagmus" by Dr. J. Ohm of Bottrop (Westphalia) is the latest of a series of monographs on different aspects of industrial hygiene, issued by the German Society for industrial hygiene, Frankfurt a.M.

The author treats of the symptomatology of the disease, its frequency and influence on the capacity for work, the question of compensation, causes and prevention, and in expressing his own views on various points he makes throughout the book frequent reference to, and criticises, those of writers in this country and in Belgium, where, as he remarks, the study of this subject has been more pursued than in Germany.

At the outset he gives the German view of the symptomatology of miners' nystagmus, viz., that the definition of the disease is summed up in the three cardinal signs, movements of the eyes, lids and head, and he sees no reason to assume a general miners' neurosis—the "English" view; symptoms of neurosis, he admits, may and often do supervene, but are not essential elements in the disease.

The change in the definition of this affection in England in 1913 has led to the prominence that has been given to subjective symptoms rather than to the objective signs in estimating the capacity for work, and to the prolonged invalidity, and may also foster malingering. In Germany the objective signs are taken as the guide of incapacity and compensation, and no consideration is given to the question of impairment of vision or contraction of the visual field apart from the nystagmus.

In the discussion of the symptoms of the disease one finds the views of the author frequently at variance with those of other writers; the oscillations of the eyes are not always rotatory in character, during work in the pit the periphery of the retina does not function more than the fovea, the visual acuity during oscillation of the eyes is not practically normal. Contraction of the visual field, as described by various writers, he would put down to malingering.

As regards the influence of nystagmus in miners on the capacity for work he deals at some length with the statistical returns, in which the figures published in Germany are compared with those in England, as well as with the statements of affected miners and the observations of ophthalmologists.

The causes are described as twofold in character, (a) external, the deviations from the erect posture of the body necessitating an upward direction of vision, and the vibrations imparted to the head in the use of pick and shovel, and more recently the pneumatic
hammer, plus the illumination (the theory of toxic action or infection is rejected) and (b) internal, a predisposition associated with some fault in the vestibular apparatus. He does not agree with the theory of defective vision or errors of refraction as the cause, but thinks that a disturbance of the light sense is a more probable predisposing cause.

This monograph gives a short but interesting survey by a German writer, who by his many papers and books has made a noteworthy contribution to the study of this wide and difficult subject.

**Centenary of Irish Medical Journalism.**

The June number of the Irish Journal of Medical Science celebrates the centenary of the Dublin medical journals and in addition to the usual professional pabulum contains a very interesting account of the Dublin medical journals; a memoir, by Sir Humphry Rolleston, of Sir Dominic Corrigan, Bart., with illustration, an excellent account by Dr. Kirkpatrick, of Sir William Petty and an account, by Professor Essen Møller, of Lund, of that rarest of Irish medical books, the *Speculum Matricis Hybernicum*.

The admirable account of the Dublin Medical Journals is from the master-hand of Dr. Kirkpatrick, the General Secretary of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland. It is safe to say that no one else could have done it so well.

It appears that Ireland was not so forward in medical journalism as other parts of the United Kingdom, for prior to the year 1807, the only Irish publication in which it was possible for a medical contributor to publish a paper was the transactions of the Royal Irish Academy. A few papers by medical men who were members of that body had appeared at uncertain intervals; but the transactions cannot be regarded as a medical publication.

In 1807 four Dublin practitioners started a quarterly journal of medicine. They were Hugh Ferguson, Francis Barker, Samuel Bell Labatt and Charles Hawkes Todd, the father of Robert Bentley Todd. The title was "The Dublin Medical and Physical Essays." The journal was divided into three sections:—original papers, critical analyses of recent publications and medical and physical intelligence. In spite of its high standard the journal expired after its sixth number in June, 1808. Sir William Wilde said that it died from want of support. Dr. Kirkpatrick questions this and thinks that the appointment of Barker to the chair of chemistry may have been partly responsible. The circulation was probably very small and copies of this paper are now scarce.

For about ten years Ireland lacked a medical paper, but in 1815, Dr. John Cheyne and Dr. Edward Perceval with Abraham Colles
and C. H. Todd agreed to issue an annual volume of hospital reports. This matured in 1817 with the issue of the Dublin Hospital Reports. Five volumes appeared at irregular intervals, the last in 1830. Todd died in 1826 and the last volume was edited by R. J. Graves. His proposal for a more regular publication in the future was not supported and the year 1832 saw the start of the Dublin Journal of Medical and Chemical Science, under the editorship of Robert Kane.

In 1816 the Association of Fellows and Licentiates of the King and Queen’s College of Physicians in Ireland was founded. It continued in an active state till 1863-1864, when it was reconstituted as the Medical Society of the College of Physicians. Nineteen years later it amalgamated with the other Dublin Medical Societies to form the Academy of Medicine in Ireland. The transactions of the Association were supervised by William Brooke till his death in 1829. Only one volume was published after his death and papers read before it appeared from 1832 onwards in the Dublin Journal of Medical and Chemical Science.

Kane’s new journal was the first successful Irish medical journal. It appeared every second month and was divided into three sections. Kane gave up his connection with it in 1834, and Jacob seems to have acted as editor for a short time. In 1842 the editors, Graves, Stokes and Porter resigned and were replaced by Hamilton and MacDonnell, while in 1845, Sir William Wilde became editor. He increased the size and brought it out quarterly. He served till 1849. J. M. Neligan was editor till 1861, and then G. H. Kidd, till 1868. In 1868, James Little took control, he changed the paper to a monthly publication, with the title of the Dublin Journal of Medical Science. Shortly after Sir John W. Moore became editor.

Since its foundation in 1882 the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland had published an annual volume of transactions until 1917. In 1920, a further volume was brought out. The cost of this nearly landed the Academy in the bankruptcy court, and as the Journal was in low water too, it was feared that both would succumb. At this juncture the proprietors of the Journal proposed that the Academy should take over the Journal and publish it in place of its transactions. In March, 1920, the Academy came into full control and Sir J. W. Moore’s farewell to the office which he had held for 47 years was printed in February, 1920. The new venture was edited by A. K. Henry, who was succeeded in 1925 by the present editor Mr. William Doolin. Such is the history of the Irish medical journals. Though Irish medical journalism has passed through vicissitudes in the past, and its history forms rather a tangled skein, there is no doubt that the present journal is a first-class publication, and that this most satisfactory state of affairs may long continue is the fervent hope of everybody.
BOOK NOTICES

*Br J Ophthalmol* 1932 16: 633-636
doi: 10.1136/bjo.16.10.633

Updated information and services can be found at:
[http://bjo.bmj.com/content/16/10/633.citation](http://bjo.bmj.com/content/16/10/633.citation)

These include:

**Email alerting service**
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
[http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions](http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions)

To order reprints go to:
[http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform](http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform)

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
[http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/](http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/)