inclusion of a number of stereoscopic fundus photographs lends interest to the illustrations, particularly of conditions such as papilloedema. With a little practice it is possible to fuse these without a stereoscope and to see the disc literally standing out. It is a pity, however, that in the non-stereoscopic illustrations, the author should have relied to such a great extent on photography because many of the conditions would have been better illustrated by drawings even if these had to be reproduced in monochrome. We would like to congratulate him on giving credit to Leslie Paton (mis-spelt Patton) for having been the first to describe the Foster Kennedy syndrome.

It would take more space than can be allocated to a book review in this journal to name all the good points in this book, but two further ones deserve mention—the useful series of tables and in addition to the photographs, the admirable series of drawings, most of which show the brain in situ in the skull and so aid the reader in orientation of the parts shown.

CORRESPONDENCE

ALBUCID PASTE IN LACRYMAL OBSTRUCTION

To the Editors of The British Journal of Ophthalmology.

Dear Sirs,—The results of probing in cases of chronic obstruction of the naso-lacrimal duct are not satisfactory, cicatrisation and stenosis recurring frequently. I have recently been trying a 10 per cent: sod. sulphacetamide (albucid) paste which is injected into the sac and duct after the latter have been probed, and the results have so far been most gratifying. As I do not see a sufficient number of these cases in my present "practice" to assess fully the value of this technique, I have thought it worth while to bring it to the notice of others who might care to try it. I also found it valuable in the pre-and post-operative treatment of a case in which I performed a dacryocystorhinostomy. (The sac in this case had become empyematus with rupture and fistula formation on to the cheek after an accident which fractured the maxilla and occluded the naso-lacrimonal canal).

The base for the cream is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Per cent.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lanette wax</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sod. Sulphoricinate</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Turkey red oil)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraf. molle</td>
<td>12½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aq. steril, ad</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sod. sulphacetamide used is the usual 30 W/V solution, 3·3 c.c. of which is made up to 10 grams with the base.
The paste so formed is of a creamy consistency, and passes through a lacrimal canula quite easily with only slight pressure. Its semi-solid consistency probably acts like a bougie and helps dilate the passages, and the sulphacetamide is retained longer in contact with the affected tissues. The use of penicillin instead of, or in conjunction with, the sulphacetamide in the paste would no doubt be an advantage. I have not had the opportunity to try it out.

Yours truly,

E. Epstein, Major, R.A.M.C.

MILITARY HOSPITAL,
YORK. April 27, 1945.

MYDRIATICS IN THE EYES OF WEST AFRICAN NEGROES

To the Editors of The British Journal of Ophthalmology.

Dear Sirs,—Having practised in Southern Rhodesia for the last 16 years, where I have been consultant in ophthalmology at the native hospital; I would like to comment on the article by Major J. Graham Scott on the “Eye of the West African Negro.” I do not agree that homatropine hydrobromide 2 per cent, with cocaine hydrochloride 2 per cent, has no effect on the African. Certainly after the usual half hour there is no dilation, but after two hours or longer the pupils are dilated. This is rather an important point, because atropine will incapacitate the patient for any close work from 5 to 10 days, and he also has his value on the labour market.

Yours faithfully,

Louie A Rubidge.

STRACHAN’S BUILDINGS,
BAKER AVENUE,
SALISBURY, S. RHODESIA.
March 16, 1945.

NOTES

The untimely death of Dr. K. J. W. Craik, Fellow of St. John’s College, Cambridge cuts short a brilliant career. Primarily a psychologist and philosopher, his knowledge of mathematics and physics, combined with his skill as an experimentalist, enabled him to accomplish researches of the greatest value and reliability. His Ph.D. thesis on “Visual Adaptation” dealt with the effects of adaptation on visual acuity and subjective brightness. The experiments showed much originality, and the analysis of the results led to physiological, psychological, and philosophical deductions of profound importance. Adaptation resembles mathematical differentiation, and permits us
ALBUCID PASTE IN LACRYMAL OBSTRUCTION
E. Epstein

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