To the Editors of The British Journal of Ophthalmology.

DEAR SIRS,—

“De Oculis, by Benevenutus Grassus of Jerusalem.”

In 1929, the late Casey A. Wood published an English translation of the first printed edition at Ferrara, 1474, A.D., of which Incunable, he gave illustrations of the first, 17th, and last pages; and an illustration of the “Explicit” and last folio of an Old English codex from the Ashmole collection in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

Wood stated that that was the only English translation he was able to find, apart from his own translation. The old codex he found was a fragment of six pages.

During my investigations for editions of Arabic ophthalmology, last year in the Hunterian Library of the University of Glasgow, I came across the following,

Manuscript 303. Beneventi Grahei (Grassi).
De VSV Ocularum, Opus in Linguam Anglicum translation 68 pages.

Vellum binding; 68 pages well written in single columns, 15 lines each 4¼ by 3½ inches; gilt illuminated capitals. The late editor of the Catalogue of the Manuscripts, placed the date of this MMS. in the XV century.

At the forthcoming Glasgow meeting of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom at the end of March, 1947, the President desires this volume to be displayed, with other rarities, showing editions recording early discoveries; and the Librarian, W. R. Cunningham, Esq., M.A., LL.D., has given his consent to a demonstration in the Hunterian Library of these valuable and beautifully illustrated volumes, at the coming meeting.

He has obtained for me a photograph of the first and last pages of this old English edition, which I trust you will be able to print along with this letter.

Yours truly,

W. B. INGLIS POLLOCK.

21, Woodside Place,
Glasgow, C.3.
November 29, 1946.

THE “NORMAL” IN THE SYNOPTOPHORE

To the Editors of The British Journal of Ophthalmology.

DEAR SIRS,—The interesting article by Lewis in your issue of December (Brit. Jl. Ophthal., Vol. XXX, p. 749) reveals some results which are not in accord with my own experience.
Comparing the distribution of Maddox rod measurements with that in a series (which I hope to publish soon) of 1269 cases, certain features are apparent. Lewis' distribution is appreciably cramped at the greater levels of exophoria and esophoria. The mean is slightly more esophoric than in my series (+0.895 compared with +0.508). Using the Chi-squared test to compare distributions, the chance of obtaining Lewis' distribution from a population represented by my own series is less than one in ten thousand. This suggests that the Maddox rod measurements in Lewis' paper are not sufficiently reliable for conclusions to be drawn as to the relation between the Maddox rod and the synoptophore findings.

I venture to suggest that the failure to check the zero on the synoptophore is a matter of some significance in view of the conclusions drawn, since I do not think that there is, on the face of it, reason to suppose that the synoptophore and the Maddox rod measure different qualities of heterophoria.

I would also offer the following suggestion for the discrepancy between the findings of method A and method B with the synoptophore (and therefore for the bifurcation of the hump in the distribution curve:—

Intelligent anticipation would inevitably result in coincidence of the images being signified before true coincidence had taken place. With the slides used such anticipation could well be subconscious.

It is, I think, a fairly well established rule that the more simple the instrument, the less extraneous factors are introduced into a measurement, and thus the more likely is it that the measurement is truly that of the function being measured. The synoptophore is an instrument of recent development in comparison with the Maddox rod, and I have shown earlier (Cridland, 1940) that results with the Maddox rod can be made reliable by attention to details.

Lewis' investigation is a valuable contribution to synoptophore work, and my criticism seeks only to prevent too great reliance being placed upon the conclusions as to correlation between different instruments.

Yours faithfully,

NIGEL CRIDLAND.

SOUTHSEA, HANTS.

January 7, 1947.

MYOPIA AND PSEUDO-MYOPIA

To the Editors of The British Journal of Ophthalmology.

DEAR SIRS,—In the article "Myopia and Pseudo-Myopia" by J. P. Spencer Walker which appeared in the December issue of the Journal he mentioned the case of a boy, aged 13½ years, who had
THE "NORMAL" IN THE SYNOPTOPHORE

Nigel Cridland

doi: 10.1136/bjo.31.2.123

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Appointment

Dr. P. H. Beattie has been appointed ophthalmic surgeon to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

* * * *

National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness announces the appointment of Dr. Franklin M. Foote to the position of Executive Director succeeding Mrs. Eleanor Brown Merrill who is retiring. Mrs. Merrill has been associated with the Society for more than twenty-five years and has served as the Executive Director for the past eight years. She formerly held the positions of Associate Director and Secretary.

Dr. Foote joined the Society's staff as Medical Director in 1946. He was formerly District Health Officer of the Kips Bay-Yorkville Health District of the New York City Health Department. Prior to that, he was Chief of the Division of Local Health Administration, Connecticut State Department of Health. Dr. Foote is Assistant Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Cornell University Medical College. Dr. Foote holds degrees of B.S., M.D., and Dr. P.H. from Yale University. During World War II, he served as a Major in the Medical Corps of the United States Army.

* * * *

White Oak Hospital, Swanley, Kent. 1944-45

Data on admissions during 1944-45 are incomplete owing to the evacuation of the Hospital during part of each of these two years. For 1946 there were 222 admissions distributed as shown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Admissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blepharitis</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phlyctenular ophthalmia</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstitial keratitis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recurrent styes</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>222</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition the Ophthalmia Neonatorum Unit which is still housed at White Oak, admitted 163 babies and 30 nursing mothers. Eight babies and eight mothers required re-admission.

IIIrd Congress of Pan-American Ophthalmology

The Congress will be held in Habana from February 22 to 28, 1948. Dr. Tomas R. Yanes is President of the Local Committee and will be assisted by members of the Sociedad Cubana de Oftalmologia.

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Corrigenda

In Dr. Inglis Pollock's letter, p., 123, the following corrections should be made. Line 14, 303 should be 503. Line 15, Anglicum should be Anglicam and translation should be translatum. Line 16, pages should be folios. Line 17, 68 should be 136. Line 20, MMS. should be MS.