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BOOK REVIEWS

The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Its First Century, 1862-1962. By ROBERT S. HENRY. 1964. Pp. 422, 138 figs. Washington. (\$4.25).

If ever one wants to read an exciting story, the tale of the development of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology of the U.S.A. can well be recommended. Started in 1862 in the American Civil War by the Surgeon General of the Army from a nucleus which consisted of three dried and varnished bones lying on the desk of Brigade Surgeon Brinton, its first curator, it rapidly grew as its enthusiastic director went round the battlefields digging out of the trenches where they had been buried "many and many a putrid heap" of legs and arms on which he set to work; and to-day the museum is without question the richest treasure-house of its kind in the world. Originally an Army Institution, it became associated with the Navy and Air Force in 1949, thus becoming the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, and with its close connexions with civilian medicine, it has since become the focus of pathology in the United States with records now exceeding 1,000,000 cases.

It is interesting that in its evolution ophthalmology played a notable part. The first formal association of the Institute with the non-service world was with dentistry, when the American Dental Association began to use it as a repository in 1895. A second and more fruitful association concerned ophthalmology when, largely through the influence of Harry Gradle, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Ophthalmological Society, and the Ophthalmic Section of the American Medical Association combined with the Institute in 1921 in forming an Ophthalmic Registry to which specimens from all over the country could be sent for an expert report; to-day there are 27 such specialist Registries. Until relatively recent years some of the happiest days that the reviewer has experienced were spent in this vast and beautifully arranged treasure-house with Colonel Ash and Helenor Wilder; to-day ophthalmic pathology with Lorenz Zimmerman is equally exciting. The value of the institution can be guessed by a glance at the superb exposition seen in *Ophthalmic Pathology* the second edition of which, written by Hogan and Zimmerman, appeared in 1962.

The Fundamentals of Ophthalmology. (Grundriss der Augenheilkunde.) By E. ENGELKING. 14th edition, 1964. Pp. 294, 254 figs (some col.). Springer Verlag, Berlin, Göttingen, and Heidelberg. (DM. 36).

The fourteenth edition of this standard German "Handbook of Ophthalmology" suitable for students and general practitioners which has now appeared maintains the excellent traditions of its predecessors. Initially written by Schieck, it covers the whole of ophthalmology in a simple and practical way, and is well illustrated and beautifully produced. Anyone who reads the book will understand its popularity among German-speaking peoples.

The Significance of Changes in the Retinal Vessels in the Diagnosis of Arteriosclerosis. ((Über den Wert retinaler Gefäß-veränderungen in der Diagnostik der Arteriosklerose). By O.-E. LUND. 1964. Pp. 153, 56 figs., 45 tables. Bailey Bros. and Swinfen, Basel and New York. (88s.)

This somewhat expensive monograph, essentially a clinico-pathological study, is of considerable interest. It is agreed that arteriosclerotic disease of the retinal vessels often bears a close relation to similar disease elsewhere, particularly in the cerebral, coronary, and renal circulations, as well as in the aorta and large vessels. At the same time the clinical recognition of vascular changes in the retina does not by itself indicate widespread arteriosclerosis, but must be supplemented by the individual investigation of other organs; for, although the parallelism is common, it is not invariable. From the medical point of view, however, a knowledge of the state of the retinal vessels is of great value in the assessment of the patient's condition as a whole.

Human Genetics. Vol. IV. (Humangenetik.) Edited by P. E. BECKER. 1964. Pp. 556, 523 figs. (8 col.). Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart. (DM. 139.20).

This comprehensive survey of human genetics edited by P. E. Becker of Göttingen is designed to comprise five volumes; the first covers basic principles and the others are devoted to clinical aspects. This fourth volume deals with the eyes, ears, nose, and throat, and the skin and its appendages. The section on the ocular aspects of genetics written by D. Klein and A. Franceschetti occupies 207 pages and gives an excellent outline of all aspects of hereditary disease as it affects the eye and its adnexa and the associated regions of the nervous system. The information contained in the equally excellent work on genetics in ophthalmology written by these authors in association with Waardenburg is thus made available to the German reader. The illustrations are excellent, the bibliography extensive, and the production of the book above reproach.

The Medical Management of Ocular Disease. Edited by D. M. GORDON. 1964. Pp. 452, 112 figs. Harper and Row (Hoeber Medical Division), New York. (\$13.50).

Ocular therapeutics is indeed a wide subject and this compendium of the knowledge of sixteen ophthalmologists, a dermatologist, and an allergist, all of whom have made original contributions to some aspect of treatment, is worth-while reading. The general conception of the book is good and its scope clearly defined. It is not concerned with symptomatology or diagnosis beyond defining the various classical conditions; it summarizes medical methods of treatment for both ambulatory patients and those in hospital, it indicates when surgical treatment is advisable or necessary, and there it stops. It does not pretend to analyse the literature, but each author indicates succinctly his own lines of treatment and his own way of handling the clinical problems assigned to him; and for the most part this is well and wisely done. There are, of course, instances when the treatment thus laid down would not be generally acceptable, such as the initial treatment of all cases of venous occlusion of the retina by intensive anti-coagulant therapy (heparin) followed by the administration of Dicumarol for years. It would seem that one of the advantages of such multiple authorship is that the book is up to date and contains such recent additions to our therapeutic armamentarium as the new anti-viral agents in external infections of the eye, oral glycerol as a hypotensive agent, and the treatment of hyphaema by fibrolysin (but not urokinase). Moreover, many of the dangers of multiple authorship are overcome by good editing. The books offer interesting reading and should prove of great value as a quick and ready source of reference to the ophthalmologist in doubt.

OBITUARY

RICHARD COLLEY, 1894-1964

Mr. Richard Colley, honorary ophthalmic surgeon to the Royal United Hospital, Bath, died on June 27, 1964, at the age of 70.

He qualified from the University of Manchester in 1916. After holding house appointments at the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, he was commissioned in the R.A.M.C., and served in Mesopotamia and was mentioned in despatches. After the war he held house appointments at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and at the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital. He was appointed ophthalmic surgeon to the Royal United Hospital, Bath, in 1923, and to the Bath Eye Infirmary in 1925. He was later, in 1937, appointed to a similar post at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases. From 1942 onwards, he had sole responsibility for the Bath Eye Infirmary and the eye cases in the other Bath hospitals. He retired in 1959, but remained a member of the house committees of both the Bath Eye Infirmary and the Royal United Hospital.



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