

Neuro-ophthalmology. (Third Symposium of the University of Miami and the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute). Edited by J. L. SMITH. 1967. Pp. 349, 200 figs, refs. Mosby, St. Louis; Kimpton, London. (£9 7s. 6d.)

This book is based on the contributions to the third symposium held at Miami Beach and upholds the standards set by the first symposium.

The theme reflects the current vogue in paediatric ophthalmology and this has resulted in some excellent chapters, among which is a stimulating exposition of current thought on the diffuse scleroses with a classification of the various forms of this condition. Apart from the paediatric aspect there are contributions on the extra-ocular muscles, pituitary ablation in diabetic retinopathy, and a first class anatomical and radiological study of the "sphenoid strut".

In the preface it is stated that there is no overlap with previous symposia. This is a claim that cannot be sustained with the inclusion of articles on Schiötz *versus* applanation tonometry, ocular clues to stroke mechanisms, and the inevitable chapters on syphilis.

Nevertheless this is an excellent book, with first class illustrations. The latter no doubt contribute to the price, and if this is so it seems a shame that there are reproductions of two radiographs of cases of absence of the corpus callosum, especially as there is no discussion of the clinical features of this condition and of recent experimental work about it. Despite the price of the book, the cost per page is less than last year, being just over 6d.

Trachoma: Prevention and Treatment. By G. BIETTI and G. H. WERNER. 1967. Pp. 227, 13 figs, 16 tables, refs. Thomas, Springfield, Ill. (\$11.50)

This monograph, written by a well-known ophthalmologist and an equally eminent virologist, is a survey of modern conceptions on trachoma. The first part deals with the bacteriology of the TRIC agents and their immunology. These have now been cultured in many laboratories throughout the world and it is generally agreed that a very similar or the same agent causes trachoma and inclusion conjunctivitis. The second part of the book describes the prophylaxis and treatment of trachoma. The hygienic methods of prophylaxis receive due attention and the difficulties of treatment by chemotherapeutic or antibiotic agents are fully discussed; it is concluded that the most effective plan is to combine long-acting oral sulphonamides with the administration of topical antibiotics, particularly the tetracyclines or erythromycin. Even when this treatment is practised with enthusiasm, however, a cure does not always follow owing to recurrent relapses and the existence of resistant cases. The value of vaccines can only yet be guessed; several types have now been tried but the period of observation has been short. Bietti advises that they could be recommended for healthy individuals particularly exposed to infection, to aid chemotherapeutic and antibiotic treatment, to prevent relapses in highly endemic areas, and as a prophylactic measure in young children in such areas. It can hardly be claimed that this advice is yet fully justified.

NOTES

VII YUGOSLAV CONGRESS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Vrnjačka Banja, October 2 to 5, 1967

The chief topics are the Causes of Blindness in Yugoslavia (main subject) and all problems regarding the cornea, uvea, and retinal ablation; there will also be free papers.

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Address of Congress Committee:
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Beograd, Yugoslavia

CORRIGENDUM

In the article by M. E. Cameron which appeared in the May issue (*Brit. J. Ophthalm.*, 1967, 51, 295), on p. 297, l. 14, please read:

Phenothiazine was first used as a vermicide in sheep and cattle, etc.