deals with ophthalmic plastic surgery and in particular with surgery of the lacrimal apparatus and with the implantation of intra-ocular acrylic lenses, and the third with visuo-medical aspects of road traffic safety. This is a useful book which should be read by all ophthalmic surgeons.


This book, which is the latest of the excellent annual publications of the French Ophthalmological Society, gives a comprehensive description of freezing techniques in ophthalmology, including detailed accounts of the principles involved, the apparatus, and experimental work on the effects of freezing on various ocular tissues.

The clinical applications of cryotherapy are discussed in detail, both the established and the more controversial aspects being documented assiduously. A chapter on the conservation of ocular tissues by freezing concludes the volume.

This book offers a welcome review of this modern subject which has such a wide application. It is too early to assess which of its uses will find a permanent place in ophthalmological practice, but there is no doubt that many are already accepted as an integral part of our day-to-day operative work.


This booklet, first published in Italian in 1968, gives comprehensive information on most aspects of ophthalmic cryotherapy. Its clear and precise style reveals the expert teacher. A short historical survey and a very short chapter about the histological changes due to cryoapplication are followed by a detailed description of the available cryoapplicators. The main sections are naturally dedicated to cryoextraction of cataract and to cryopexy in retinal detachment. The authors believe that cryoextraction is the safest method of intracapsular cataract removal, but the procedure has to be properly executed with a modern lightweight instrument to prevent avoidable complications, and such instruments are unfortunately very expensive. By this method the lens capsule is not often torn, even in intumescent, hypermature, and complicated cataract interventions, and the danger to the vitreous is also much reduced. The main disadvantages are the maltreatment of the iris and the need for skilled assistance. In favourable cases of retinal detachment and in cases requiring prophylactic measures, cryopexy exposes the eye to much less danger than diathermy. It is even preferable to photo-coagulation as it does not produce retinal haemorrhages.

Cryotherapy has its uses in other conditions, such as chronic glaucoma, virus keratitis, and trachoma. It is a pity that this small book contains no figures, for illustrations make a more forceful impression than the printed word.

## Notes

### Clear print

*Conference, October 20, 1971*

The Library Association and the National Association for the Education of the Partially Sighted are to hold a one-day Conference on Clear Print with special reference to the needs of the visually handicapped reader on Wednesday, October 20, 1971, at the Commonwealth Hall, Royal Commonwealth Society, London, W.C.2.
Cryo-ophthalmology

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