BOOK NOTICE


This volume forms the first part of a worthy Memorial to Edward Nettleship. His memory will be kept alive for many years to come by the countless contributions which he made to ophthalmology, for these must be constantly referred to by tillers in the fields in which he was such an ardent worker. Not least among these contributions are the three volumes on Albinism which have appeared as Drapers Company Research Memoirs emanating from the Francis Galton Laboratory for National Eugenics. The high standard set in these volumes is well maintained in the present one.

The section on Retinitis pigmentosa and allied diseases begins with an excellent general account, in which the historical aspects, signs and symptoms, and pathology of the disease, diseases and defects found in association with it, racial and geographical distribution, statistical observations, and the question of consanguinity are successively dealt with. The chief diseases allied to retinitis pigmentosa, all characterized by night-blindness, are retinitis punctata albescens, choroideremia, and gyrate atrophy of the choroid and retina. Of these choroideremia is the most remarkable, and is illustrated by a very beautiful plate of the fundi in Usher's case.

A short second section briefly discusses congenital stationary night-blindness, and another short section is devoted to glioma retinae, a subject which might well have been dealt with elsewhere, since it has no relationship to diseases characterized by night-blindness and Nettleship's name does not occur in this section or in its bibliography.

Of greater importance than the main text—very valuable as this indeed is—are the bibliographies, the descriptions of the cases, and the wonderful pedigrees illustrated in the twenty-six plates. Most readers will agree with the conclusions arrived at by the author of the main text, but the details of the cases and pedigrees supply the material for forming individual judgments and contain a mine of information from which fresh treasures will doubtless be dug up.

All those who have participated in the production of the work are to be congratulated. Of these, after Nettleship himself, the most valuable contributions have been made by Usher, as was also the case in the volumes on albinism. Miss Bell has been very
successful in her able review of the voluminous material; and the pedigree plates, reproduced from drawings by Miss Jones, are as nearly perfect as possible. The Prefatory note has been written by Prof. Karl Pearson, whose stimulating influence is discernible throughout the work, particularly perhaps in the quotations from St. John, Hippocrates, and Francis Galton.

This memorial volume is fitly prefaced by a portrait of Nettleship, and a memoir by Mr. Lawford. Of the latter our readers can judge for themselves, since, owing to the courtesy of Prof. Pearson, we are privileged to reproduce it in full in the present number of this journal.

CORRESPONDENCE

(Translation.)

To the Editor of The British Journal of Ophthalmology

Dear Sir,—I read the article on “German Ophthalmological Literature since 1914” in your Journal (p. 516). I note your great interest in German Ophthalmological Literature, and am indebted to you for this manifestation of it. I shall be obliged if you will allow me to elucidate the question of the price of the “Jahresbericht über die gesamte Ophthalmologie.” I base my figures for the foreign prices on the pre-war prices, i.e., on a gold standard, von Nagel—Michel’s “Jahresbericht” cost 50 gold marks for vol. 43 (1913), and 40 gold marks for vol. 44 (1915), whilst the price fixed by me for vol. 47 is £1 12s. The present price is therefore actually less than the price of the pre-war volumes, which were certainly more exhaustive. Allowing for the increased cost of production which obtains in all countries the price fixed by me must be regarded as quite reasonable. For example, not only has the pecuniary value of the paper risen, it has reached considerably more than double the price in gold currency. I would also ask you to remember that I have to subscribe to more than 1,000 foreign journals at greatly enhanced prices for the medical abstracts, the organization of which is incorporated with that of the “Jahresbericht.” Hence you will agree that the price, £1 12s., which I do not vary is not too high. The price for sale in Germany, on the other hand, has to be raised repeatedly owing to the progressive change in the currency. If English booksellers, to whom I allow a discount of 33½ per cent. on the above mentioned price, charge a higher price, it is altogether unjustified, and I should be obliged for any information which would enable me to take steps against these firms.

Yours faithfully,

Berlin, Nov. 18, 1922.

Julius Springer.