graft was taken from a full term foetus which died soon after birth. The result was satisfactory as the old woman can see to get about without help.

Good photographs of the patient before and after operation illustrate the paper.

R. R. J.

BOOK NOTICE

The Medical Annual, 1940. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd.
Price 20s.

The Medical Annual in its 58th year of life maintains the high standard set in previous editions. It is an indispensable book for the busy general practitioner and contains much of interest.

The ophthalmic section is by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, who discusses such subjects as cataract and vitamins, diseases of the cornea, sulphanilamide in ophthalmology, affections of the iris, and optic atrophy. Among other contributions may be noted the medical aspects of flying by Group-Captain Rook and thyroid surgery, by Leonard Rogers. The latter deals with cases of extreme exophthalmos and reproduces illustrations from papers by Naffziger. The illustrations, some of which are in colour, have been well chosen and reproduced. Printing, paper, etc., are excellent.

CORRESPONDENCE

MUSTARD GAS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

SIRS,—I have been much interested in the discussions concerning the action of mustard gas on the eyes. All seem to be agreed that once it touches the eye no washing can remove it. But for a long time I have recognised that this peculiarity is not confined to mustard gas. I ask any oculist to apply atropine or eserine to an eye and immediately irrigate and he will find that it does not stop the action of the drug. The same observation applies to hyd. perchlor. in glycerine. In the few seconds that elapse between the application and the irrigation the drug seems to fasten onto the epithelium of the cornea.

Other people may have been more fortunate than I have been but I can state definitely that the time elapsing between the

application of the drug and irrigation is in practice so short as to render irrigation useless.

About the late effects of severe mustard gas injury when severe and of which I have seen a few cases, they can only be described as disastrous and almost beyond effective treatment.

I am, etc.,

JAMES W. BARRETT.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

April 19, 1940.

OBITUARY

G. HARVEY GOLDSMITH, M.A., M.D.

We regret to announce the death on May 19, 1940, of George Harvey Goldsmith, the well known ophthalmic surgeon of Bedford.

Born in 1868 he was the son of Dr. G. P. Goldsmith, of Bedford, who came of an old Suffolk family. Goldsmith was educated at Bedford School (1878-1886) and at Cambridge University, whence he took his B.A. in the Natural Sciences Tripos in 1889. He joined the medical School of St. George's Hospital, qualified at "the Colleges" in 1892, and proceeded M.B.Cantab. in 1893. His M.D. dated from 1902.

At St. George's he was house surgeon, house physician and ophthalmic assistant. His ophthalmological training was continued at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital where he was house surgeon and, later, clinical assistant.

Goldsmith joined his brother in practice in Bedford and was for a time M.O. to one of the houses of his old school, but his ophthalmological reputation increased so rapidly that he soon confined himself entirely to it. For many years he had an extensive practice in Bedford and its surroundings. At the time of his death he held the post of consulting ophthalmic surgeon to the Bedford County Hospital. His work was marked by extreme care and conscientiousness; no trouble was too much for him to help his patients, rich and poor alike, and many life-long friendships were made in this way. He joined the Ophthalmological Society in 1899 and retired only last year. To its *Transactions* he was an occasional contributor, mainly of case reports. Apart from his professional work Goldsmith was an ex-president of the Bedford Historical Society. He was widely read both in archaeology and in general literature and was a good Greek scholar. Later in life he took up the study of Hebrew to enable him to read the Bible in the original. A deeply religious man, he was for many years churchwarden of St. Paul's, Bedford. He never married and died at his sister's house at Aldeburgh.