

BOOK NOTICES

The Ophthalmic Year Book, Vol. XXII. Containing Bibliographies, Digests and Indexes of the literature of Ophthalmology for the year 1925. Edited by WILLIAM CRISP, with the assistance of several collaborators. Pp. 313. The Ophthalmic Publishing Co., Chicago, 1926.

The present volume of this valuable year book brings the references up to those included in the "current literature" lists of the *American Journal of Ophthalmology* for December, 1925. These lists furnish practically the entire basis for the bibliographies, lists, and digests which constitute the year book. The general arrangement of the book remains as in past volumes, but some endeavour has been made to economise space by the omission of references to work of little or no permanent value. The ophthalmic world owes a debt of gratitude to the writers of this indispensable book for their painstaking and often very dreary work.

Stilling's pseudo-isochromatische Tafeln zur Prüfung des Farbensinnes. Herausgegeben von Geheimrat PROF. DR. E. HERTEL. 16th Edition. Leipzig: Georg Thieme, 1926. Price 18 marks.

We welcome a new edition of these well-known "pseudo-isochromatic" tests for colour blindness. Their utility has been fully proved, though like all other tests for colour blindness they have their limitations.

Tafeln mit Umschlagfarben zum Nachweis von relativer Rot- und Grünsichtigkeit. von Dr. Med. ERNST WÖLFFLIN. Basel: Leipzig: Georg Thieme, 1926, Price 5 marks 70.

These tests are a refinement of Stilling's tests. Some years ago Ishihara added to Stilling's tests some plates in which the designs were easily discriminated by the colour blind but not by those of normal sight. In Wölfflin's plates the hues are similarly visible to the colour blind and invisible to the normal sighted by daylight. They can, however, be discerned by the normal under artificial illumination. The difficulty, already very great in Stilling's tests, of obtaining precise colours in the lithographic plates must have been greatly increased in these. The extreme delicacy of the tests may be expected considerably to limit their practical utility.

Hilger's Spectrometers. ADAM HILGER, 24, Rochester Place, N.W.1.

We have received a list, with descriptive details, of Hilger's Spectrometers. These instruments are unsurpassed in accuracy

and perfection of workmanship. They afford the means of analysis of the spectrum from the extreme ultra-violet (1,850 Å) to the extreme infra-red (100,000 Å). Their prices are mercifully withheld.

NOTES

Writing in the Cloister

To those who have wondered how the early monastic chroniclers were able to do their literary work in the ill-lit monastic buildings the following extract from Ordericus Vitalis, *Hist. Eccl. Lib. XIII* may be of interest.

“Behold, worn out with age and infirmity, I desire to end my work, and for many reasons prudence requires it. For I am now (1141) passing the 67th year of my age in the worship of my Lord Jesus Christ.”

Ibid. Lib. IV. “But now I am benumbed with the winter frosts and must turn to other duties: wherefore I am resolved here to lay down my pen and end this fourth book. When the soft air of sweet spring shall return, then I will turn again to those matters which I have omitted or have treated too briefly.”

Ordericus was a monk of St. Evroul in Normandy. These extracts show him, an old man, still writing at nearly 70 years of age. Spectacles were unknown at this time, and his literary efforts seem to have been bounded by numbed fingers rather than by visual disability. Perhaps, after all he was a myope.

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Appointments

MR. R. C. DAVENPORT has been appointed Assistant Surgeon to the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital.

DR. WALTER KIEP has been appointed Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Victoria Hospital, Keighley, and DR. W. D. HAMILTON Assistant Ophthalmic Surgeon to the same institution.

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Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital Dinner

THE dinner of past and present students of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital will take place on Thursday, February 10, 1927. Mr. Percy Flemming will be in the chair.