
At a meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Oto-Laryngology in 1923, Dr. Bedell of Albany proposed that some special token of appreciation should be given to Dr. Edward Jackson in recognition of his distinguished and unselfish service to ophthalmology. The proposal was received with enthusiasm, a Committee was appointed and the result is seen in the volume of “Contributions to Ophthalmic Science,” recently published and dedicated to Dr. Jackson “in honour of his seventieth birthday.”

This collection of 50 original papers forms a worthy tribute from “his pupils and colleagues” to one who is in every sense deserving of these evidences of admiration and affection. It is a handsome volume of over 300 pages, with a list of contributors (of whom unfortunately two have died since the scheme was initiated) and subscribers. It has been sent to every subscriber to the American Journal of Ophthalmology, of which Dr. Jackson is the editor-in-chief.

The articles contained in the volume deal with a wide variety of ophthalmological subjects: many of them are long and detailed and deserving of individual notice which we hope to give later. A large number are illustrated, some very liberally: others have valuable bibliographies appended. The frontispiece is, of course, a portrait of Dr. Jackson. The production of the book—paper, type, and illustrations—shows a high degree of excellence. In an appreciative and sympathetic “foreword” Dr. de Schweinitz relates the salient facts in Dr. Jackson’s long and successful career and refers to the outstanding traits in his character and his professional work which have gained for him so high and so wide a reputation. The last paragraph of this foreword runs as follows: “His sterling character, his honesty of purpose, his scientific attainments and accuracy, his qualities of leadership, his abilities as teacher, author and editor, have established his wide reputation and made him an exemplar among the men of worth. For all time he has set his distinctive mark on our science. It is our privilege and pleasure in the dedication of this volume to pay tribute to our friend, teacher, co-worker and colleague—a master ophthalmologist.”

To these happily chosen words of de Schweinitz ophthalmologists in this country who know and admire, or who not knowing still admire, Dr. Jackson, will subscribe in all sincerity.

In spite of the fact that there are a good many small textbooks on ophthalmic nursing available, there was room for such a work as the present, in which the subject is concisely treated and in which speculative methods, the joy of the therapeutic crank, are omitted; moreover the book is brought out at a cheap price, which is a very important matter as most nurses and not a few students are not in a position to spend much money on books dealing with the special subjects.

The work is based on the methods in use at the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital; and, as Sir John Parsons says in his foreword, these have stood the test of more than a century’s experience. The book is liberally illustrated; the descriptions of the various diseases and operations are admirably concise and are all that is necessary to enable any intelligent nurse to understand the main facts of ophthalmic surgery, while paper and printing are excellent. Without aspiring to the high standard set by, say, the English liturgy in literature, the book is well written, and it is obviously the work of one who has held the important post of House Surgeon at Moorfields Hospital and profited by the experience there gained.


This little volume is one of the Psyche miniatures, and, as the author notes in his preface, the space at his disposal is not adequate for the full discussion of such a many-sided problem as that of aphasia. He is to be congratulated on the amount of information he has succeeded in condensing as well as on his effort to indicate the separate and combined importance of the anatomical, physiological and psychological aspects of the problem. Naturally in such a condensed account all sides of the question cannot meet with an equally full treatment and, in this case, the psychological side has had rather to give way to the physiological and pathological questions involved. The chief interest to the ophthalmologist will be found in the remarks on word-blindness which is classified as a form of receptive aphasia. In the matter of treatment Wilson strongly favours the re-education methods described by Dana. Although the author hopes that a definite physio-pathological classification of the forms of aphasia may yet be attained he is forced to admit that so far we must be content with empirical clinical divisions. In spite of its unscientific appearance we can recommend the book to our readers as a very clearly written introduction to a difficult subject.