The book is a handsome one, very well illustrated by drawings by the author himself, and its printing and general production up to the standard we expect from the Oxford University Press.

The general arrangement is original in many details, both in the sequence of chapters and their subject matter. After describing the Zeiss apparatus there follows a description of the various methods of examination open to the user. Then follow chapters on the cornea, localization and measurement, succeeded by a consideration of abnormalities of the cornea. The anterior chamber is next briefly surveyed, and then follows a long chapter on inflammation in general. After this the iris and lens with their abnormalities are treated in detail. A chapter is devoted to the retro-lental space and vitreous and after this four chapters are set aside for a somewhat discursive treatment of the effect of operations and injuries, the value of the slit-lamp in medico-legal cases, the retina, and finally a description of slit-lamp methods with simple apparatus.

All users of the slit-lamp will not agree with some of the terms used in translating from the French and German, but it is to be remembered that the language of the slit-lamp is not as yet stereotyped. We hope that when standard terms come to be adopted some improvement may be found for such words as "collarette," "retro-illumination," etc. We might also point out that the term "optically inactive" has a special meaning with regard to polarized light, and should not have been used as a translation of Koby when he states that, "derriere la capsule s'étend un espace peu profonde, optiquement vide." These, however, are minor criticisms of a book which is more of an atlas than a textbook, and which should prove of great value to all users of the slit-lamp.

OBITUARY

WAREN TAY

It is hardly possible to think or write of Mr. Waren Tay, who died on May 15 in his eighty-fourth year, without comparing him with the master of whom he was such a devout disciple, Sir Jonathan Hutchinson. Both were born and bred in Yorkshire, both came to London for their medical education and settled down there in private practice.

Hutchinson was often spoken of as "a universal specialist" on account of the number of different subjects upon which he could speak authoritatively, and Tay in like manner became skilled in the practice of several different branches of his profession.

To the writer, who for some years had been working with Tay
before he knew Sir Jonathan, it was a matter of surprise to find how many of the habits and mannerisms he had learnt to associate with the younger man must have been acquired unconsciously from his teacher.

Tay was a student at the London Hospital, obtained the qualification of M.R.C.S. in 1866, and that of F.R.C.S. three years later. At the London Hospital he soon came under the influence of Hutchinson, who was the lecturer on surgery; the acquaintance thus started between the solemn and impressive lecturer and the conscientious and earnest student, rapidly ripened into friendship. After having held the usual residential appointments Tay became Hutchinson’s clinical assistant at the various Institutions with which he was connected, much, as it turned out, to their mutual advantage, Hutchinson obtaining the aid of an acute clinical observer with literary abilities, and Tay receiving support and assistance in obtaining the hospital appointments which gave him an assured position in his profession in London.

In 1868 he was appointed Assistant Surgeon to the Hospital for Diseases of the Skin at Blackfriars and full Surgeon in 1875, which post he continued to hold until 1907. In 1869, at the early age of 25, he became Assistant Surgeon and Ophthalmologist to the London Hospital, and full Surgeon with charge of beds in both the general surgical and ophthalmic wards seven years later. He retired from the London Hospital in 1902.

He was appointed Surgeon to the North-Eastern Hospital for Children (now the Queen’s Hospital for Children) in 1869, being closely associated with the founders of the Hospital, Mary and Ellen Phillips, and the earnest Quaker group that supported them in their good work, amongst whom were John Phillips (their father); Edmund Pace; William Beck, the architect, who for a time shared a house with Hutchinson in Finsbury Circus; John D. Fry and Dr. Alexander Fox. Tay continued to work at this hospital for twenty years doing the ophthalmic work which was required there together with that of general surgery.

Tay’s first connection with Moorfields Eye Hospital was as clinical assistant, together with Edward Nettleship, to Jonathan Hutchinson. It was whilst so engaged in the years 1874-5 that he discovered in the fundus of the eye ophthalmoscopically, an appearance which had not previously been described, consisting of minute yellowish white dots in the choroid around the macula, the condition which is now so widely known as “Tay’s Choroiditis.” It was characteristic of Tay’s modesty and lack of self assertiveness that he did not hasten to publish a description of this discovery himself. He showed it to Hutchinson who wrote an article on the subject in the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital Reports (Vol. VIII, 1875, page 231) entitled “Symmetrical Central
Choroido-Retinal Disease Occurring in Senile Persons.” At the conclusion of the article Hutchinson makes his acknowledgment to Tay in the following terms: “It is only right that I should state, in concluding my report, that I was indebted to my friend and colleague, Mr. Waren Tay, for much more than the mere notes of the first cases. The patients were under my care, but it was he who made the ophthalmoscopic examination, and drew my attention to the peculiarities presented. I have failed to find in our standard works and atlases any description of similar cases.” It is noteworthy that Hutchinson did not speak of the condition as “choroiditis,” but in discussing the nature of the dots said: “it may be suggested as not improbable, that the small round white spots are allied in seat and structure to the so-called ‘colloid’ excrescences from the lamina elastica,” a surmise which, whether Hutchinson’s or Tay’s in the first instance, has subsequently been found to be correct.

In 1877, on the retirement of Bowman and Critchett from the staff at Moorfields, Tay, and his colleague at the London Hospital, James Adams, were appointed to take their places. Tay’s surgical interest was more in the study of the natural history of disease than in the practice and display of manual dexterity. A steady and reliable operator himself he delighted in providing opportunities for younger men to gain experience, and there are many who look back gratefully to the assistance he thus afforded them in their early career. So sympathetic and kindly-disposed a man as Tay, who would give away operations, and allow records of his cases to be made use of for purposes of publications, naturally attracted around him a good type of assistant. Amongst those who worked under him at Moorfields were many who attained conspicuous positions in ophthalmology, e.g., Stanford Morton, Adams Frost, Ernest Clarke, Percy Dunn, Roxburgh, Arthur Thompson, Hallidie of St. Leonards, and Cooke of Cambridge.

Tay was one of the small group of men who in the late seventies used to congregate together in the evenings in the House Surgeon’s room at Moorfields to discuss cases, meetings out of which the Ophthalmological Society ultimately developed. He was an original member of that society and one of its first members of Council. In Vol. I of its Transactions is recorded, with an ophthalmoscopic drawing which has since become classical, a case shown by Tay which he entitled “Symmetrical changes in the region of the yellow spot in each eye of an infant.” This was the first described case of what we now know as “Amaurotic Family Idiocy.” Tay gave a complete and accurate description of the clinical symptoms of the disease, and in 1884, in Vol. IV of the Transactions recorded a second case from the same family, thus showing its family tendency which has since been found to be such
a characteristic feature. Though Tay’s first case died, the parents would not permit an autopsy so he was unable to investigate the pathological condition. This was first done by Dr. B. Sachs in a case of Knapp’s in New York, hence the description of the affection sometimes known as “Tay-Sachs’ Disease.”

In the seventies the surgeons at Moorfields commenced to publish in connection with the Ophthalmic Hospital Reports a Periscope of contemporary ophthalmic literature, the translations of the foreign articles in it being mostly Tay’s work. This Periscope was continued until the appearance of the Ophthalmic Review as a separate journal rendered it no longer necessary. Tay also translated one of the volumes of Hebra’s “Diseases of the Skin” for the New Sydenham Society of which Jonathan Hutchinson was the secretary.

Tay continued his work at Moorfields until the retiring age; in the latter part of his hospital career, his strong conscientious rectitude and growing dread of not being quite up to date made him lose a certain amount of self-reliance; so that instead of becoming dogmatic and self-assertive with age, he tended to be unduly deferent to the opinion of younger and far less experienced men.

He resided during his professional life at No. 4 Finsbury Square, a house which though it faced on the busiest side of the square had the advantage of backing on to the large open space of the Honourable Artillery Company’s grounds. Finsbury Square and Circus, when Tay first went to live in the neighbourhood, were quiet residential oases abutting on the City of London, they have now become noisy and commercial. Many of the houses were at that time occupied by members of the staff of Guy’s and the London Hospitals upon whom it was obligatory to reside in the vicinity of those institutions. Tay had, therefore, living around him friends and colleagues with whom at week-ends his love of nature made him delight in making long pedestrian expeditions into the country. He was an enthusiastic cyclist, riding a tricycle long before the safety bicycle was invented, and with his customary thoroughness visiting regularly the cycle shows and making himself familiar with every new invention and improvement.

Tay never married and led, especially in his latter years, a somewhat lonely life. He found, however, a great solace in literature and like his colleague Dr. Hughlings Jackson was a voracious reader of fiction. After he retired from practice he resided at Crowdon. His latter days were clouded with the dread that he might become cut off from the solace of his books by the loss of sight, for he suffered, as Jonathan Hutchinson had done, from chronic glaucoma. Fortunately, in both cases it was only one eye
that became seriously involved, the disease in the better eye being kept in check by the use of miotics.

Tay possessed an exceeding gentle and self-denying nature, he abhorred anything cruel or rude. Though he thoroughly enjoyed a joke he did not like being made fun of himself, being particularly sensitive to ridicule. On the other hand he never seemed to forget any little service which had been rendered him and was unfailingly loyal to his friends and assistants. Had he chosen to be more pushful, there can be little doubt that with his abilities and vast experience he might have attained to the highest rank in his profession. As it is his name will live in ophthalmology in connection with the two affections of the fundus of the eye which he discovered, and his memory will be held in high esteem by all those who were fortunate enough to work with him as assistants.

E.T.C.

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NOTES

**Mayor of Exeter**

Colonel Ransom Pickard, C.B., C.M.G., M.S., F.R.C.S., who is this year Mayor of Exeter, was entertained at dinner on April 26 by members of the medical profession in Exeter and the neighbouring parts of Devon. Colonel Pickard is not the first ophthalmologist to hold this important civic post in Exeter, since he was preceded by the late Mr. A. C. Roper. We are sure that all readers of the British Journal of Ophthalmology will wish to join with us in congratulating him on this high honour shown him by his fellow citizens.

*Among those upon whom the Honorary Hon. LL.D., Edin. Degree of Doctor of Laws will be conferred by the University of Edinburgh on the occasion of the meeting of the British Medical Association in that city in July we are pleased to note the names of Sir John Parsons and Professor van der Hoeve.*

Trachoma organism

It is reported that Professor Noguchi has succeeded in isolating a minute Gram-negative, pleomorphic, aerobic, motile, flagellated bacillus from cases of trachoma amongst American Indians. Monkeys inoculated with a pure culture showed all the signs of trachoma and the same organism was recovered from the inoculated monkeys. In none of these cases were any "inclusion-bodies" found. We look forward with interest to the publication of the full report of a discovery, the importance of which, if confirmed, can hardly be overestimated.