in "current literature" lists of the American Journal of Ophthalmology.

We regret to find that the editor anticipates that no further volumes will be issued on account of the inadequate support that the work has received. A joint committee of American Ophthalmological Societies issued a circular letter to some 2,000 ophthalmic surgeons asking for information as to the extent to which they had found the volume of use and the support they would be willing to provide. Only ten per cent. replied, so that, in spite of the generous support of an enthusiastic view, it seems unlikely that it will be found possible to continue the publication of the work. We understand, however, that the bulk of the information contained in the Year Book will continue to appear in the journal, though not arranged in the same accessible manner as is possible in a yearly volume.

OBITUARY

GEORGE COWELL

The death of Mr. Cowell in his 92nd year on November 17, 1927, is truly the break of a link in the history of ophthalmology, for he was the last, in London at any rate, of the band of those who, like Hutchinson and the elder Critchett, were general surgeons in the first place and ophthalmologists in the second.

He was born in 1836, the son of George Kersey Cowell, Surgeon, of Ipswich and was apprenticed according to the usual rules of medical education prevalent at the time to a surgeon in Birmingham; on account of this he entered St. George’s Hospital, London, at a later age than most of his fellow students. His name occurs on the pupils’ register of St. George’s in 1861; the last entry of that year. He was, as a matter of fact a post-graduate student, for he had taken the ordinary double qualification of the day in 1858. He was house surgeon to the West London Hospital, and proceeded to the F.R.C.S. in 1867. At the time of his death he was the second senior of the Fellows taken in chronological order.

Almost at once he was elected assistant surgeon to the Westminster Hospital and surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. He served each institution for twenty-five years, before retiring in 1896. He was also surgeon to the Victoria Hospital for Children for nearly twenty years and ophthalmic surgeon to the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell.

But it is chiefly by his work with Dr. Barnardo on behalf of
poor children that he will be remembered; he was also a very active member of the Guild of St. Luke.

His chief contribution to literature was his “Life and Letters of Professor E. B. Cowell,” the famous Sanskrit scholar and professor at Cambridge. His contributions to ophthalmic literature were not numerous, but he published his “Lectures on Cataract,” and was the author of a set of test types for determining the acuteness of vision.

A prominent English Freemason, he was for a time Chairman of the Medical Committee of the Freemasons’ War Hospital.

**NOTES**

**Appointment**

Dr. R. G. Abercrombie has been appointed Honorary Assistant Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Sheffield Royal Hospital.

**Honour**

Mr. George Edward Wherry, Consulting Surgeon to Addenbrooke’s Hospital, has been elected an Honorary Fellow of Downing College, Cambridge.

**Opticians Bill**

The *British Medical Journal* publishes in its supplement for November 5, 1927, a report of the oral evidence given before the Departmental Committee on the Optical Practitioners (Registration) Bill by Dr. R. Wallace Henry and Mr. N. Bishop Harman. Those of our readers who are interested in the matter would do well to read this very clear account of the case against the Bill. In the course of their evidence they submitted an analysis of the names appearing upon the Association’s list of registered medical practitioners who have intimated their willingness to advise on ophthalmic cases and prescribe spectacles when necessary (at a fee of one guinea) for insured members of approved societies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>England</th>
<th>Scotland</th>
<th>Wales</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of medical practitioners on B.M.A. Ophthalmic List (of whom 615 are members of B.M.A.)</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of names and/or addresses on Ophthalmic List</td>
<td>877</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1,001</td>
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