The Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress was held at Oxford on July 5, 6 and 7 last.

Members met informally at dinner on the 4th in the hall of Keble College, which again offered its hospitality, as in former years. The advantage which is gained by the all too short stay in College, where each member is assigned rooms and becomes for the time being a student, is quite one of the features of this successful annual gathering of ophthalmic surgeons. The proceedings of the Congress were held in the Department of Human Anatomy of the University, kindly lent for the purpose by Professor Arthur Thomson, to whom the Congress owes much. In addition to the Scientific Museum a Commercial Museum was on view, in which fourteen well-known firms of ophthalmic instrument makers exhibited the latest forms of apparatus and instruments.

The proceedings commenced on the morning of Thursday, July 5, with a short address of welcome by the Master, Mr. Philip H. Adams, Reader in Ophthalmology of the University of Oxford. Immediately following this Professor Leonard Hill opened a Symposium on the Ultra-Violet Ray, to which the following also contributed:—Mr. W. S. Duke-Elder, Dr. W. J. Turrell, Dr. C. M. B. Dobson, F.R.S., Mr. W. R. Acland, Dr. N. S. Lucas, Mr. G. O. Hume and Mr. A. F. MacCallan; whilst Mr. J. Jameson Evans, Miss Marion Gilchrist and Mr. R. J. Coulter took part in the subsequent discussion.

In his address Professor Hill dealt with the biologically active rays, their measurement and their penetration of the skin and eye, the theory of the action and immunity to rays, the comparison of the sun and lamps as sources, and the action of rays as evidenced by erythema, and touched on haemo-bactericidal power, rickets, ergosterol, vitamin D, and pigment formation.

Some interesting slides of the effect of erythema by ultra-violet ray were shown.

Dr. C. M. B. Dobson, F.R.S., spoke next on the effect of atmosphere, the altitude of the sun and the presence of ozone on the transmission and the energy of ultra-violet rays. Curves and photographs illustrating these effects were shown.

Dr. W. J. Turrell gave his clinical experiences of the practical administration of ultra-violet rays, emphasizing the importance of the regulation of dosage. The lamp he favoured was the Tungsten arc lamp which he had used for 13 years.
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Mr. W. R. Acland dealt with phototherapy in the treatment of dental disease, referring especially to pyorrhoea and its relationship to ocular diseases.

Dr. N. S. Lucas gave his extremely interesting experiences of the treatment of rickets in Marmoset monkeys by ultra-violet rays, using a mercury vapour lamp. An interesting point observed was the effect upon the eyes when exposed to the rays; a reaction came on much more rapidly, i.e., from one to two hours, than in the human, but passed off more quickly. He considered that some ultra-violet ray dosage was essential to monkeys not in their natural state.

Mr. G. O. Hume spoke on the local application of the rays to the eye in certain conditions, emphasizing the importance of selection of cases and dosage.

Mr. A. F. MacCallan, C.B.E., while recognizing the beneficial effect of phototherapy, urged the need for a continued search for causal conditions, notably septic foci in teeth, tonsils, etc.

Owing to illness, Mr. W. S. Duke-Elder was unable to be present, and his paper will appear in company with the full report of the Proceedings of the Congress in the Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of the U.K.

The afternoon was devoted to demonstrations and the examination of ophthalmic apparatus in the scientific and commercial museums.

In the former Mr. E. E. Maddox showed an Accommodation Balance Test, a new fixation site for the globe in intracapsular cataract extraction and an ingeniously apparatus for training amblyopia in squint on a new principle involving hand and eye. Mr. Rayner Batten showed an interesting collection of fundus drawings of diseases and anomalies of retinal and choroidal vessels. Dr. Margaret Dobson showed a test for astigmatism in which the duochrome principle was applied to the Maddox "V" Test. Mr. George Young demonstrated the instruments he now uses in the operation of double sclerectomy for glaucoma which he has devised and also a number of slides in which the effect of the operation could be seen. Mr. W. Niccol showed slides of a carcinoma of the choroid secondary to carcinoma of the breast, and Mr. B. Cridland exhibited a test-type for children.

At the conclusion of the afternoon’s proceedings members and their friends repaired to the gardens of Trinity College for tea, where they were welcomed by Professor and Mrs. R. A. Peters, who kindly acted as host and hostess. The annual dinner of the Congress was held in the evening in the Hall of Keble College and was unusually well attended. Among the guests were the Regius Professor of Medicine Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard, K.C.V.O., Professor Arthur Thomson, Miss Kirkaldy, Dr. W. J. Turrell, Dr. C. M. B. Dobson, F.R.S., and Dr. N. S. Lucas. In speaking on behalf of the
Congress, the Master, Mr. PHILIP H. ADAMS, mentioned that 18 new members had been elected during the year, the total membership being now 414, including 8 honorary members. The attendance at the meeting in 1927 was 104, and included a good number of well-known ophthalmic surgeons from the Continent and America. He regretted to have to record the loss, through death, of Professor Felix Lagrange, a Foundation Member. Dr. Brownlow Riddell, Dr. W. J. Tyson, Mr. Fredk. Dale and Mr. T. O'Kelly. The toast of the visitors was proposed by Mr. R. J. Coulter to which Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard replied.

The proceedings on the morning of Friday the 6th opened with a preliminary report by Mr. BURDON COOPER on "Spectroscopy of the crystalline lens," in which he gave, with a lantern demonstration, the results of the spectroscopic examination of normal and cataractous lenses. The spectograms showed that in cataractous lenses potassium was diminished and calcium increased.

Mr. T. HARRISON BUTLER next read a paper on "Sympathetic ophthalmitis" which should be read in the original.

Messrs. S. H. BROWNING, MALCOLM HEPBURN, H. M. TRAQUAIR and A. W. ORMOND joined in the discussion to which Mr. BUTLER replied.

Then followed the Doyne Memorial Lecture, which is undoubtedly the most important contribution to the proceedings of the Congress. Instituted in 1916 in memory of the Founder, the late Robert Walter Doyne, these lectures have proved the occasion for the appearance of much valuable and original work. This year the lecture was by Professor ARTHUR THOMSON, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S., LL.D., D.C.L., Dr. Lees Professor of Human Anatomy of the University of Oxford, and was no exception to the rule. Prefacing his remarks with a fitting tribute to the Founder, Professor THOMSON chose as his subject "Observations on the Eyes of Birds." After a review of the literature of the past 250 years on the study of the pecten, an exposition of the anatomy of this little understood portion of a bird's eye was given, aided by some excellent slides and models.

It was shown that the most prominent portion of the pecten which projected furthest into the globe was more closely attached to the hyaloid membrane overlying it than it was at its sides. The hyaloid lying upon this black pigmented structure acted as a dark mirror, and the Lecturer suggested that its function might very reasonably be one of elimination of dazzle from direct rays of the sun with reflection of objects from the upper field of vision, to some other part of the retina. The value of this in the case of all birds other than prey-birds would be seen at once. The latter, hovering with its back to the sun in the region of dazzle as far as the ground bird is concerned, is in a position of distinct advantage, whilst the
former, with his enemy in the region of dazzle and thereby difficult
to see, is greatly handicapped. If, however, it is true that the bridge
of the pecten is a dark mirror, which can eliminate dazzle and
reflect the image of the prey-bird, Nature has provided the ground
bird with a suitable means of defence. Some excellent photographs
imitating these conditions as far as possible were shown, and
undoubtedly supported this fascinating and reasonable explanation
of the function of the pecten. The subject is one which has
received no attention worth notice since the days of Petit, some
200 years ago and Professor Thomson is to be congratulated on his
work. The lecture delivered in a very clear and lucid manner
commanded the greatest attention and at its conclusion Professor
Thomson was presented with the Doyne Memorial Medal for the
year.

Mr. G. R. de Beer, Lecturer in Comparative and Experimental
Embryology in the University of Oxford, then gave a most
interesting paper on some original work which he has carried out on
the development of the vertebrate eye. It would be impossible in
a few lines to give the essential points brought out and this valuable
contribution to the subject should be read in the original.

On the afternoon of Friday, the Scientific and Commercial
Museums were again available but, as an alternative, a visit to the
Morris Motor Works had been arranged and the majority of the
members availed themselves of the opportunity to see mass
production of motor cars.

On Saturday the 7th the session opened with a speculative paper
by Lt.-Col. Henry Smith, C.I.E., I.M.S. retd., on the nutrition
of the lens and vitreous. Comparing the uterus with its rhythmic
contractions as a means of maintaining circulation and thereby
nutrition, he suggested that a sluice-like action of the ciliary muscle
of the eye occurred whereby the canal of Schlemm and neighbouring
spaces were opened and relaxed and so aided the circulation of the
aqueous humour.

Reports of a series of interesting clinical cases were then given by
the following:—

Miss Ida Mann, "A congenital abnormality of the retina." Mr. John Rowan, "A case of gliomata of the retina" (both eyes
removed for gliomata at 1 year and 5 months, no recurrence after
over 3½ years). Mr. George Young, "A case for diagnosis"
(enuresis up to the age of 17 which disappeared after correction
of some hypermetropic astigmatism). Mr. J. A. Ross, "Keratitis with
intranasal causation" (keratitis of 15 years' standing cured after
treatment of an anterior ethmoiditis). Mr. C. G. Russ Wood,
"Case of Mikulicz's disease with complications." Miss Marion
Gilchrist, "A case of keratitis marginalis profunda occurring in
both eyes." All the cases were freely discussed by members. This
concluded the proceedings of as good and pleasant a meeting as has ever been held.

The attendance was well over a hundred, a matter for congratulation as there were practically no members from abroad, owing no doubt to the fact that the International Congress of Ophthalmology will take place at Amsterdam next year.

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BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
XCVI ANNUAL MEETING, CARDIFF, 1928
Section of Ophthalmology, July 25 and 26

The President, Mr. F. P. S. Cresswell (Cardiff), welcomed the members and called upon Dr. Freeland Fergus (Rothesay) to open the discussion on “Visual Efficiency and Working Ability.”

Dr. Fergus advanced the argument that too much is made nowadays of macular vision or visual acuteness. He entered a plea that much useful manual work can be done by persons who have quite poor macular vision. Uncorrected inyopes had little central visual acuity beyond their far point, and he had given details of colliers with high amounts of myopia, who had no difficulty in making as much money as the best-sighted colliers could, and what is true of coal-mining is true of almost every other form of manual work. In the peripheral location of objects the sense of projection and the subconscious estimation of distance play an important part. In the former of these the light sense and the colour intensity must be a necessity. In the latter binocular vision and convergence are important, but in the one-eyed individual other factors are of great assistance, namely, the size of the retinal image, the amount of accommodation necessary for fixation, parallax, the size of known objects, etc. The interpretation of retinal images is not a physical process, it is mental. With regard to amblyopia in one eye, the speaker cited a medical practitioner who had no difficulty in driving his motor car, and in carrying on his practice, in spite of this defect. The speaker believed that eyes amblyopic from old convergence had no power of assisting true binocular vision.

Many men who have sufficient sight for their work are thrown out of employment because someone has discovered a trivial defect which has not interfered with the working capacity, but which has caused the insurance companies to refuse the added risk. To some extent the dole is the necessary corollary of the Workmen’s Compensation Act. The speaker cited many cases of men doing useful work with very defective sight, and of others who had lost...