rapid but thorough washing with alcohol. It is then coated with white vaseline. The operator grasps the probe with a pair of mosquito forceps near its tip and introduces it into the lacrimal punctum. By short rapid movements of releasing and grasping the probe, an insertion is effected before swelling has occurred. It is left in for half an hour to an hour, according to the amount of dilatation required, and is then removed by dragging on a small thread which has been passed through the upper end of the probe. In the presence of infection, it is well before probing to syringe out the sac every day with 1 in 3,000 metaphen, giving the patient a solution of the same strength as an eyewash until the infection seems to have subsided. This method of treatment has been tried in 20 patients with excellent results. It is, of course, necessary in some cases to pass the probe several times, and in all cases to have a rhinological examination in case the lower end of the duct should be occluded by swollen turbinates, adhesions, and the like. If such conditions are found, they must be corrected before the probes are used.

F. A. Williamson-Noble.

BOOK NOTICES


This beautifully printed quarto volume of the Transactions of the Congress of the Italian Ophthalmological Society contains many communications of interest and permanent value. Two of these demand special notice. The article (pp. 70-131) by Dr. F. Poos, on the physiology and pharmacology of the unstriped muscles of the eye is an elaborate experimental investigation of the effects of temperature and drugs upon the sphincter and dilatator of the iris and the ciliary muscle, and well deserved the award of the Cirincione Prize. Though containing few new facts it is an excellent demonstration of the present state of our knowledge of the subject, with numerous tracings and a full bibliography. Dr. Mario Montaliti’s article on the anterior corpora quadrigemina in man, which obtained the Cidonio Prize, is an anatomical investigation of the anterior colliculi in human foetuses, together with a few experimental observations of degenerations in monkeys by the Marchi method. It is also accompanied by a good bibliography. Two other prizes were awarded for communications of less value: the Cozzoli prize to Dr. Bartolo Castello for a contribution to the study of the reticulo-endothelial system of the eye;
and the Valenti prize to Dr. Paolo Nichelatti for a research on the therapeutic action of infra-red radiation on certain conjunctival affections, especially trachoma.

Notable among the other papers are those by Foroni on a modification of Lagrange's operation for glaucoma; Favaloro on the pathogenesis of the direction of exophthalmos in tumours of the optic nerve; Scalzitti on mycoses of the palpebral conjunctiva (with bibliography); Favaloro on neuroglia and glioma of the optic nerve (with bibliography); Montalti on the treatment of iridocyclitis by tuberculin and actinotherapy; Pasquinangeli on the treatment of syphilitic diseases of the eye; Leonardi on lime burns; Anotibon on tumours of the caruncle (with bibliography); and Rosica on the intradermal reaction of Noguchi for syphilis.

Our Italian confrères are to be congratulated on this record of a most successful congress.


This monograph is a very elaborate investigation of the eye movements in rabbits after extirpation of the labyrinth on one side, carried out over a period of three years in Prof. Göthlin's Psychological Institute at Upsala. It forms a continuation and elaboration of part of the work of Magnus and de Kleijn, and of Rademaker. After a thorough analysis of the spontaneous movements and normal reflexes by means of graphic registration of the responses of the individual eye muscles, the author proceeds to give the results of his experiments as determining the changes in spontaneous nystagmus with changes in the posture of the head, the reflexes initiated by the normal labyrinth immediately after the contra-lateral extirpation, the labyrinthine reflexes of the eye muscles after the acute results of the operation have passed off, and the nervous mechanism of vestibular eye reflexes. The last mentioned research involved large numbers of experimental lesions in the brain stem, and these have been fully described in the text.

It would be out of place to enter into minute details of the work in this journal. It is sufficient to state that the researches, which must have been extremely laborious, have been carried out with great care, and admirably described and illustrated. No one who wishes to obtain a thorough acquaintance with the present state of knowledge of the ocular reflexes associated with posture and originating in the vestibular apparatus can afford to neglect this important work.
This report of the annual conference of the Belgian Ophthalmological Society contains 11 communications from members, and in addition, a list of members and a record of the "Séance d'affaires."

1. In a paper on the Bio-microscopy of the Crystalline Lens, Kleefeld urges the routine use of the slit-lamp in all cases of early changes, or changes at their first discovery, in the lens. He believes that thereby a mistaken diagnosis of congenital defects for those of commencing senile cataract would be frequently avoided. Three examples of unusual types of cataract were presented.

2. Danis. "Cirsoid Aneurysm of the Central Artery of the Retina." The patient with this condition was shown at the meeting, and a coloured plate accompanies the note of the case.

3. van Lint and Vaucleroy showed a patient in whom a fragment of iron had penetrated the centre of the lens, whence it had been removed by the electro-magnet. The scars on the anterior capsule, of its entry and exit, and its track in the substance of the lens were easily visible by means of the slit-lamp. The rest of the lens was clear, the vision equalled 0.5.

4. Weekers read a paper on the Vision of Drivers of Automobiles, in which, after drawing attention to the fact that no guarantee of the physical fitness of drivers is required, he proposed that a memorial should be addressed to the Government by the Society, advocating compulsory tests as to sight, etc. After discussion it was decided to defer action.

5. A contribution by Wibo and Alaerts on ethmoiditis with severe ocular signs, but without rhinoscopic or radioscopic signs, gave particulars of a man aged 19 years, in whom left exophthalmos came on rapidly without fever or severe pain. The papilla was oedematous, vision was 0.7. Repeated rhinoscopic examination revealed nothing abnormal, nor did radiography help. Only on operative interference was the ethmoiditis found: the ocular lesions underwent immediate improvement and full acuity of vision was ultimately regained.

6. van Duyse and van Weymeersch report a case of tuberculosis of the lacrimal gland occurring in a female, aged 26 years, whose only complaint was of swelling of both upper eyelids in their outer third. She showed cicatrices in the neck, and had had signs at the apex of one lung. One tumour was removed and examined microscopically; the diagnosis of tubercle was thus determined. The bacillus of Koch was not discovered in spite
of careful search. This corresponds with the experience of previous observers. Tuberculosis of the lacrymal gland is rare; it is met with in two forms, caseating and sclerosing. The case now reported belongs to the latter group.

7. M. F. Brandes read a paper on "Blindness and Lethargic Encephalitis," in which he related the case of a female, aged 20 years, who lost the sight of the right and (eight days later) of the left eye. A noticeable feature of the case was the almost entire absence of ophthalmoscopic changes. The onset of serious cerebrospinal symptoms led to trephining in the temporal region, but death ensued 15 days later. Post-mortem notes are not given.

8. Bichelonne, in a short communication, emphasized the importance to patients of care in the choice and adaptation of ocular protheses.

9. Gravidic amaurosis, incorrectly termed uraemic amaurosis: does it call for termination of pregnancy? Under this title Weekers and Missotten presented a long paper based on the case of a woman in the 8th month of pregnancy. Two attacks of amaurosis occurred: in the first no fundus changes were discoverable, in the second neuro-retinitis appeared in the left, and two days later in the right eye, and sight was reduced to finger counting. Three days after the failure of the right eye the pregnancy ended naturally at term. The child was healthy; the woman made good recovery, and regained full acuity of vision.

The authors discuss the many questions raised in such a case, and quote previous writers on this subject. They express the opinion that in gravidic amaurosis the prognosis as to sight is favourable; that its onset does not indicate a general toxaemia of great gravity endangering the life of the mother and child; and that by itself it is not an urgent indication for termination of the pregnancy. In deciding this point the whole clinical picture, and not merely the ocular symptoms must be the guide.

10. Kleefeld's paper is entitled "Induced adhesion of the conjunctiva and sclera, and its utilisation in muscle advancement." His description of his method of operating for strabismus with the aid of the adhesions which he produces, must be read in the original paper.

11. The final communication to the Congress was by MM. Bauwens, van Bogaert and Danis, on a case of "Amaurotic familial idiocy, of Tay-Sachs." The child, aged 14 months, was the daughter of non-consanguineous Jewish parents. Symptoms developed at the age of seven months, and were in no respects unusual for this type of disease.