demonstrated many years ago (Bär, Groenouw, and Nelson), the macular fibres or cells are still often regarded as those primarily concerned. This misconception has led in the past to unjustifiable theories of causation and still produces much confusion of thought both in diagnosis and in aetiology. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the macular elements, whether cells or fibres, are never either the first or the most severely affected, but are always involved after other elements of the papillo-macular bundle.

If the scotoma in a case of moderate severity is carefully examined, the densest areas will be found near the blind spot, or between it and the fixation area, not at the fixation area itself. Only when the diffuse margin of the scotoma begins to invade the fixation area does the patient complain of symptoms, and indeed the scotoma may have existed and cleared up without the fixation area itself ever having been perceptibly affected. The scotoma of tobacco amblyopia is therefore not a central scotoma in the true sense, but a temporo-caecal defect which, by extending over the fixation area, becomes a centro-caecal scotoma." The diagnosis is not as a rule difficult. What the author has to say about chiasmal interference due to pituitary disease or other causes, and about Leber's disease had better be read in the original. When mentioning the good prognosis in most cases the author remarks that "cases in which serious visual incapacity remains appear to be rare in relation to the frequency of the disease."

The article includes two statistical tables and four charts. Eight references are given.

Ernest Thomson.

BOOK NOTICES


This collection of papers, edited by Prof. di Marzio, bears some resemblance to the Reports of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital now merged in this journal, in so far as it consists mainly of original papers contributed by workers in the clinic. The actual clinical work done is summed up at the end by Prof. di Marzio in some 25 pages. As an illustration of the amount of work covered we may note that no less than 129 cataract cases were operated on. As we propose to publish abstracts of the papers, a task facilitated by the fact that the authors have appended a summary of their
results in English, we need not enter into any detailed account of them in this notice. The comfort of the reader has been somewhat sacrificed to the excellence of the reproduction of the numerous text-illustrations by the use of a heavy and highly surfaced paper, but this discomfort has been reduced to a minimum by the excellent typography and wide spacing. Our Italian colleagues are to be congratulated in being able to supply so much original work in addition to the excellent journals with which our readers are familiar.


The eighteenth edition of this very useful colour vision test, prepared by Prof. Hertel, does not differ greatly from its predecessors. Some of the previous plates have been omitted, and some new ones added. The new ones are plate XI with alternating colours in grey-green tones, plate XII with a more marked working out of confusion figures for defectives, plate XV worked out by Prof. Engelking as a result of his study of blue-yellow blindness, and finally, plate XVI in which the comparison of colours has to be made without any figures.

If we have a criticism to make it is that the figures are of rather unusual shape to English eyes.

Our readers are sufficiently familiar with the test in the previous editions, and we have no doubt will appreciate this latest re-arrangement.


Dr. Raúl Argañaraz, Professor of Ophthalmology in Buenos Aires, is already well known for his contributions to ophthalmology, especially with regard to the question of nystagmus and the subject of choroidal sarcoma. He has now provided Latin America with a text-book of ophthalmology specially written for students and practitioners. The book is based upon his lectures delivered in the Faculty of Medicine at Buenos Aires. It is eminently clinical, is large and comprehensive, well printed and profusely illustrated.

The arrangement of the subject matter follows conventional lines, and is divided into chapters, the majority of which comprise several lectures. Congenital deformities are dealt with first, and there follow under the headings of symptomatology, pathology, and treatment, the diseases of the various parts of the eye arranged regionally: the lids, lacrimal apparatus, conjunctiva, cornea, sclera, the orbit, iris,
ciliary body, intraocular tumours, and the lens. Each of these is dealt with in considerable detail, and it is interesting that in the majority of cases the common types of intraocular infections and the procedures recommended for their treatment are very similar to those prevalent in Western Europe. It is noteworthy that excision of the lacrimal sac is recommended rather than drainage operations into the nose. Conjunctivitis appears to be prevalent in South America and to assume severe forms, and the chapter on trachoma is interesting and well dealt with by the author.

The chapter on the disturbances of mobility of the eye is exhaustive; this subject is particularly well dealt with, and, as one would expect from the author, nystagmus receives more attention than it usually does in works of this kind. It is classified thus: labyrinthine, congenital, optical, cerebral, cerebellar, and miners' nystagmus. In the treatment of glaucoma, intra-venous hypertonic solutions are suggested as a means to relieve the tension prior to operation, and dionine is suggested as a useful drug as a miotic. The operative measure most highly recommended for the majority of cases is an iridectomy, and, as a second alternative, the trephine. The old-fashioned method of cataract extraction is preferred to the various intra-capsular procedures.

The remaining chapters deal with injuries to the eye, the vitreous, and amblyopias. Then follow descriptions of the routine clinical examination of patients, of refraction and the correction of the optical errors of the eye; while the last chapter deals with the examination of the fundus, and includes a description of diseases of the choroid, the retina and the optic nerve. It is in this chapter especially, as, indeed, throughout the book, that the reader feels the complete lack of coloured illustrations.

Der Kopfschmerz und seine Behandlung. By Eugen Pollak. 

Pollak's treatise on headaches and their treatment is an excellent compilation with defects on the same generous scale. The author's approach to the subject may appear roundabout, but is nevertheless sound: to discuss the conditions in which headache is but a symptom may not be of much use in the treatment of that large class of headaches of no apparent cause, but is of value in getting a clearer view of the mechanism underlying headaches in general. This is the strength of the monograph: clearly defined conditions, such as the headaches of infectious fevers, chronic infections, intoxications, vascular disturbances and the late headaches from cranial trauma are discussed among others, and the attempt is made to translate the multitude of causes into terms of pathological changes in the brain, its coverings or bloodvessels. The ordered mass of
information in this book may not always be convincing or devoid of ambiguity, but these faults are the faults of the quality of the work.

Still if the monograph is as good as it can be on the pathological side it is disappointing in its main object—that of supplying guidance on the treatment of headaches. The treatment of the symptomatic headache is obvious enough, but it is a fact that most headaches have no clear association with any gross disturbance, and on this subject the author appears to have but little to say. He does not seem to have learnt the lesson that Weir Mitchell taught on the relationship of eyestrain and headaches. The eye is indeed discussed as one of the possible sources of headaches, but in agreement with the whole plan of the book pride of place is given to gross organic lesions like glaucoma and iritis. Heterophoria is discussed but refractive errors are dismissed in two sentences. A good account of migraine is marred by the omission of any reference to the eye as the possible source of trouble. From the point of view of treatment these are by no means minor faults. Cooperation with an oculist would have made the author’s work more balanced, and incidentally he would have learnt not to attempt to diagnose acute glaucoma from fundus appearances.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

SIR,—While engaged recently in making an English translation of the De Oculis of Benevenutus Grassus, the first printed monograph on the eye and its diseases (Ferrard 1474), I tried to locate all existing copies of that extremely rare little book.

Three copies in America and four in Continental Europe completed the census so far taken, but it seemed to me that there must be others, especially in Great Britain, whence came two of our examples. Aided by Mr. R. R. James and Dr. Charles Singer, I sent a questionnaire to the principal libraries of this country, but without result. Quite recently, however, I received a note from Mr. S. Wood, Library Assistant of the Royal College of Surgeons, informing me that there is a copy on the shelves of their library.

Through the courtesy of the officials I have been able to collate the volume, and was much pleased to note that it is a fine copy in a good state of preservation—an exact replica of each of the American trio. It is Pinelli’s own copy, having been listed in his catalogue, and there are annotations copied on the recto of the first blank leaf. Neither the initials nor lines are rubricated but there are many marginal notes in red ink. It was purchased for the