

Mr. Harrison Butler emphasised the necessity for doing a radical operation and advised the co-operation of the ophthalmic surgeon and rhinologist.

Col. A. E. J. Lister gave an account of a girl, aged 14 years, who suffered from a swelling at the outer side of the orbit, of an inflammatory nature, and in which the movements of the eye were little interfered with. The swelling was a suppurating hydatid cyst.

Mr. George Mackay spoke of the importance of blood examination in cases of orbital suppuration. He described two cases where anthrax was the cause of orbital cellulitis.

Mr. A. L. Whitehead emphasised the importance of radiography as a diagnostic agent. Orbital cellulitis in young persons where there was no obvious cause, and not much proptosis, cleared up with rest and fomentations only.

Mr. Jameson Evans described a case of orbital cellulitis following forceps delivery. There was a granulomatous mass on the lid covering the opening of a sinus which passed through the lid and crossed the orbit. At the distal end of the sinus was a sequestrum.

Mr. A. W. Ormond said that the failure of vision in these cases was probably due to interference with the central retinal vessels and pressure on the central artery.

Mr. MacCallan and Mr. Norman Patterson responded and expressed their interest in the opinions that had been given and the accounts of the various cases.

H. B. STALLARD.

BOOK NOTICES

Colour and Colour Theories. By CHRISTINE LADD-FRANKLIN, Ph.D., Lecturer in Columbia University, New York. Pp. 287. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. London: Kegan, Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co. 1929.

Mrs. Ladd-Franklin has been a frequent writer and an ardent fighter about colour vision. The present volume will be welcomed by those interested in the subject; and the more so because it is not a new work, but a collection of all her previous communications. No one can read the earlier papers without recognizing that Mrs. Ladd-Franklin was a pioneer who did first class original work. One has only to remember that she was the first to lay stress upon the night-blindness of the fovea—a fact already well known empirically to astronomers; and that she made the very important discovery, soon confirmed by Ebbinghaus, that the complementary whites formed by red and blue-green and yellow and blue respectively, if of equal brightness to the light adapted

eye, did not retain equality of brightness if the physical intensities were considerably reduced. Her papers of 1892 and 1893 will especially repay perusal even at the present time; and her strictures on both the Young-Helmholtz and the Hering theories are no cantankerous beatings about the bush, but solid arguments demanding consideration and reply by the adherents of those theories. That some of the arguments have been adequately refuted in the light of greater knowledge is probably in no small degree due to their apparent potency at the time they were published.

As is well known Mrs. Ladd-Franklin was led to propound a photo-chemical theory of colour vision. This genetic theory has much to commend it, but like most theories of colour vision is speculative and fails in the most important function of a working hypothesis, that of pointing out fruitful lines of future research. *Per contra*, it has had the usual effect of giving rise to reams of philosophical speculation which lead nowhere, and one of its worst crimes is that it has diverted its distinguished author from fruitful research to fruitless polemics. It is for this reason chiefly that we welcome this volume of reprints rather than a new exposition of the subject, for in our opinion Mrs. Ladd-Franklin's early papers are much more valuable than her later ones. In no subject is the real solid work of pioneers more likely to be snowed under by useless controversies than in colour vision. This volume will throw Mrs. Ladd-Franklin's valuable contributions into proper perspective—a fitting monument to a veteran.

Le Daltonisme. By PAUL BLUM and E. SCAFF, with a preface by PROF. DE LAPERSONNE. Pp. 131. Paris: Masson et Cie. Price, 20 francs.

The full title of this brochure is "Daltonism: its practical importance, clinical forms, and diagnosis." It is therefore essentially a practical work, and is written by the principal medical officer and the oculist to the railways of Alsace and Lorraine. There is a very brief historical sketch of colour-blindness, and equally brief—and unsatisfactory—remarks on the Young-Helmholtz and Hering theories. In discussing the practical importance of colour-blindness due credit is given to Wilson, and stress is laid upon the small visual angle subtended by signal lights, and the fact that in America, and recently in England, signal lights are being used by day as well as by night. The classification of colour-blinds follows the usual trichromatic version, but is somewhat unnecessarily elaborated. The authors' statistics give 3.4 per cent. of "absolute daltonians" and 8 per cent. of "relative daltonians." The most valuable part of the work consists in a description of the methods of testing railway employees. All the usual methods are described, with some critical remarks; but methods involving

the use of spectral colours—which must ever be the court of final appeal—receive scant attention. There is an interesting short chapter on tests carried out on a stretch of railway line one kilometre long, with special signal lanterns, telephonic communications, etc. There is a somewhat incomplete bibliography.

The Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom. Vol. XLIX. 1929.

The Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom for the session 1929 are now published. The book is arranged in the manner of previous volumes, and contains reports of the discussions and papers read to the Society at the Annual Congress, and also accounts of the transactions of the Oxford Congress, the Midland, the North of England, and the Irish Ophthalmological Societies.

At the Annual Congress, the discussions concerned heterophoria, and the diagnosis and treatment of ocular tuberculosis; while the papers on "Formative fibrous tissue reaction in the eye," by E. Treacher Collins; on "The structure and properties of the vitreous body," by W. S. Duke-Elder; on "Graded squint operations," by F. A. Williamson-Noble; and on the "Prevention of minor eye injuries in industry," by Bernard Cridland, are of particular interest.

At the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress Professor Joseph Meller (Vienna) read the opening paper on "Diseases of the lacrymal apparatus." There is a full account of the Doyne Memorial Lecture on "Some observations on the vascularization of the vertebrate eye," by Ida Mann; and also an interesting account of the papers read by Hugh Cairns and Charles Goulden on the "Ocular manifestations of head injuries."

The remainder of the book contains the reports of the papers, cases, and specimens at the meetings of the Midland, North of England, and Irish Ophthalmological Societies.

We hope to publish summaries of the more important papers in the abstract section of this journal at a later date.

Stereoskopischer Atlas der äussern Erkrankungen des Auges.

By KARL WESSELY (München). A first instalment of ten stereo-photographs (2½ in. × 2 in. on cards 7 in. × 4 in.) München: J. F. Bergmann. Price, R.M. 12.00.

The advantages of stereoscopic photography in ophthalmology are sufficiently obvious not to need emphasis. But, for technical reasons the production of coloured stereo-photographs presented such great difficulties that all available photographs have been made devoid of natural colouration, being merely black and white. The question of colouration was discussed at the Heidelberg Ophthalmological Congress in 1927, when Professor Wessely

and his collaborator, Dr. Zabel, showed how to overcome the difficulties involved, and the present series of ten highly successful coloured stereo-photographs shows that the production of such pictures has passed from the experimental stage to an established procedure. There can be no doubt that the publication of these photographs opens a new field in the illustration of eye diseases.

The principles employed in the making of these photographs are not explained in the four-page pamphlet (in German) accompanying the pictures. The author refers to the transactions of the Congress mentioned, from which it appears that the camera used is one specially constructed according to the design of Professor Wessely, and that the photographs are taken by an ordinary nitra light. But in a footnote in the present pamphlet a statement is made that some of the pictures were taken by "a small Stereo-Palmos Icamera by the use of flashlight."

The appearance of the present collection almost immediately after the excellent series of uncoloured photographs by von Rötth (reviewed in the February number of this journal) shows that considerable attention is being given to stereo-photography in Central Europe.

CORRESPONDENCE

IMPROVEMENT OF VISUAL ACUITY OF CATARACTOUS EYES

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

DEAR SIR,—In view of reference in this Journal in recent years to visual changes in cataract cases with or without medicinal treatment, it seemed that it might be of interest to report the following case:—

Miss H.E., aged 56 years, was seen in May, 1927. V.R. 6/18 (2 letters); V.L. 6/36. By retinoscopy and without a mydriatic, some hypermetropia and 0.25 D. astigmatism was found in the right and 0.5 D. astigmatism in the left eye.

$$R. \frac{+ 1.5D.sph.}{+ 0.25 D.cyl. 90^\circ} = 6/9. \quad L. \frac{+ 1.0 D.sph.}{+ 0.50 D.cyl. 120^\circ} = 6/18.$$

In March, 1929, retinoscopy revealed more hypermetropic astigmatism in the right and very slightly more in the left eye.

$$R. + 0.75 D.cyl. 90^\circ = 6/9. \quad L. + 0.75 D.cyl. 120^\circ = 6/9.$$

It will be seen, therefore, that in both eyes the hypermetropia had disappeared, leaving only hypermetropic astigmatism. The vision of the left eye with a cylindrical change of only 0.25 D. had improved from 6/18 with a lens in 1927 to 6/9. It should be noted