Conclusions

We tried different esters of the para-oxybenzoic acid in order to conserve eyedrops and found that the most suitable of these is the propylester in 0.05 per cent. concentration. The eyedrops thus prepared hinder entirely the growth of the micro-organisms and by the mild bactericidal effect those which enter the eyedrops die.

The eyes tolerate these prepared eyedrops well. This method of conservation is recommended, because by it the physician does not have trouble in keeping the eyedrops pure.

Also from an economical point of view it is necessary to conserve eyedrops, because many of the alkaloids which are used in it are expensive.

LITERATURE


ANNOTATION

International Illumination Congress, 1931

During September, there was held in Great Britain an International Illumination Congress. This Congress forms an adjunct to the meetings of the International Commission on Illumination. This latter body was originally founded in 1900 as the International Commission on Photometry and was changed in 1913 to its present form. It is in essence a co-ordinating body, being composed of delegates from National Illumination Committees which exist in most civilized countries. Recently, the meetings of this Commission have been preceded by a Congress to which everybody interested in illumination could come.

This particular Congress has attained some notoriety owing to the flood-lighting, in honour of the Congress, of some of the public buildings in London and elsewhere. It is not necessary to say very much about this feature. Some of the illumination was merely a glare. Occasionally, it rendered visible architectural features which are not ordinarily observed and the flood-lighting of some of the flower beds in St. James’s Park was interesting, as showing what can be done. It is only fair to say that no charge fell upon the public authorities for all this expenditure of energy.

The Congress assembled in London on September 1, and on the 3rd began a tour through the principal industrial centres of Britain,
going first to Glasgow for three days and then to Edinburgh, Sheffield and Birmingham. At each place meetings were held, papers were read and discussed, and local works, etc., inspected. The last meeting place was Cambridge, where the International Illumination Congress held its meeting, so that those who were interested could follow on. This concluded on September 18th and the whole Congress returned to London on September 19th in time for the Faraday Centenary Celebrations, which began on September 21st, and then on September 23rd came the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

The reason for these peregrinations was to give the delegates a general idea of the great industrial centres of Britain and also to stimulate local interest in lighting.

More than 150 papers on all branches of the subject were brought before the Congress, ranging from the recent developments of lighting of the factory, house, shop, theatre, church, to aviation and architectural lighting, coloured signal glasses, motor car headlights and luminous traffic signals, etc., a very varied programme containing a vast amount of useful information, but we regret to notice that the physiological aspect of illumination has been almost entirely neglected. There are only five papers dealing with anything even remotely connected with the physiology of vision and yet this aspect of the problem is fundamental. It is within our recollection that the late Mr. Leon Gaster, the founder of the Illuminating Engineering Society, always emphasized the importance of the human element, and we feel certain that if he had been alive it would not have been thus neglected. It is to be hoped that in future Congresses this question will receive the consideration it deserves and that the teaching and example of Mr. Leon Gaster will be followed.

It is useless to attempt to summarize the papers read at this Congress, and even a mere list would occupy too much space, but probably ophthalmic surgeons would be most interested in those dealing with photometry. It is noteworthy that much progress has been made in measuring the intensity of coloured light and in improving the accuracy of photometers.

Among the physiological papers there are two on visual acuity under varying illumination and one on a new apparatus for testing visual function.