not specific, for in pregnancy sedimentation is also rapid, as it is indeed in any condition where there is breaking down of tissues. The reaction apparently depends on the amount of fibrinogen and globulin in the plasma, a reduction in the suspension stability being brought about whenever the plasma content of fibrinogen and globulin is high.

Schmelzer has investigated the erythrocyte sedimentation rate in 800 eye cases and concludes that the value of the test in ophthalmology is more in the direction of prognosis than differential diagnosis. In glaucoma, the erythrocyte-sedimentation rate was found to be normal, any deviation being explained by associated general conditions (such as old tuberculosis). The findings were likewise negative in cataract. On the other hand the majority of cases of interstitial keratitis of syphilitic origin gave a moderately or greatly increased rate. The "rheumatic affections" (iritis, scleritis) were also associated with a high rate, which, however, returned to normal as the condition regressed. The "tuberculous and scrofulous" diseases gave but indefinite results, only a few cases giving an increased rate of sedimentation, and this rate returned to normal with improvement of the condition. A high rate was seen in herpes of the cornea and in serpiginous ulceration; return to normal also occurring with improvement. In acute dacryocystitis, in orbital cellulitis and particularly in panophthalmitis the rate is high. Melanotic sarcoma of the iris and also the majority of cases of affections of the choroid and optic nerve gave negative results.

Schmelzer believes that changes in the erythrocyte-sedimentation rate have a definite value in the prognosis of any particular case, though the author does not go as far as another observer (Franceschetti) who regards the variations of the sedimentation rate as significant as are the variations in bodily temperature during the course of a general disturbance.

ARNOLD SORSBY.

BOOK NOTICES


This history of the part played by women in the progress of medicine represents an extraordinary amount of historical research, going back to the earliest times of history and coming down to the end of the Great War. When one considers the difficulties under which Dr. Lipinska has done her work—she is completely blind
herself—one cannot sufficiently admire the energy which has led her to deal in such an extremely interesting manner with the great accumulation of material which is set forth in this work. In no way, however, does she "lose sight of the wood for the trees," and it is not a mere series of isolated facts that Dr. Lipinska has given, but a fascinating account of the part played by women throughout the ages in the development of medical science.


This fasciculus of the *Medico-Chirurgical Review of Jassy*, Roumania, is dedicated to the Professor of Ophthalmology, Dr. Elena Puscaru, and contains her portrait as a frontispiece. The ophthalmic clinic at Jassy has been in existence for 10 years, under the control of Professor Puscaru, and the present fasciculus contains 11 papers and a short appreciation of the Professor. A convenient synopsis of the papers is given in the French language for the benefit of those who cannot read Roumanian.

Printing and paper are excellent and the whole forms a notable tribute to the work and organizing ability of the Professor of Ophthalmology.


Lauber's monograph of 161 pages on the anatomy of the ciliary body, choroid and vitreous is a subsection of one of the 13 chapters on ocular anatomy and physiology in the German system of ophthalmology. That it is comprehensive and exhaustive goes without saying, and the 13 pages of closely-printed references testify to the care with which the author has sifted his material. As is usual in these encyclopaedic productions, a personal note is not often struck, though the present volume clearly bears the mark of the author's individuality. Throughout the book stress is laid on the changes with age that can be observed in the different structures. The ciliary muscle in particular seems to undergo marked changes; the equatorial part of the muscle is absent at birth. During childhood the interstitial connective tissue increases in amount, and later on sclerosing changes occur. The old view that the ciliary muscle is atrophied in myopia is definitely dismissed. The illustrations of the ciliary processes are strongly suggestive of a relief-map of the Alps.

All the anatomical facts are presumably present in this volume and the author is to be congratulated on the way he has marshalled them. His treatise does not deal with the anatomy of the dead-house but with that of the living organ.