
Friedenwald's cases are of interest, in that they represent a type of late syphilis in which antiluetic treatment has been relatively successful. The paper contains reports of three cases of tabetic optic atrophy with considerable field loss and associated retinal changes. The latter were of the kind usually seen in congenital syphilis and bore a strong resemblance to retinitis pigmentosa.

In two cases, vigorous anti-syphilitic treatment with arsenic and bismuth injections resulted in checking the progress of the optic atrophy and in bringing about some absorption of the pigmented areas. The third case refused treatment. The author concludes that "the nature of the bodily reactions (allergy and immunity) to the spirochaete of late neuro-syphilis resembles that found in congenital lues."

F. A. W-N.

BOOK NOTICES


The Sixty-seventh Annual Meeting of the American Ophthalmological Society was held at Asheville, N.C. The Transactions of this meeting are recorded in a volume of 591 pages, including the index, and the papers reflect a high standard of scientific and clinical work in ophthalmology and allied sciences. There are 78 full page illustrations and photographs, mostly in monochrome, but some in colours, together with diagrams, drawings, charts, and tables in the text.

A list of the officers and council of the American Ophthalmological Society is given, also the presidents, members, and Emeritus members. Four obituary notices precede the minutes of the proceedings.

There are many papers on subjects of current interest, and these will be abstracted in greater detail and published at a later date. Davis (Madison, Wisconsin) has made a contribution to the literature of avertin as an anaesthetic in ophthalmic surgery. He reports his experience with 90 cases, 48 intra-ocular operations, and 42 extra-ocular. The method of preparation, dosage, administration, dangers, after-effects, complications and contra-indications are described faithfully. He believes that avertin is a valuable adjunct
for use in selected eye operations, where local anaesthesia is not satisfactory.

O'Brien (Iowa) has contributed a long paper on cataract of post-operative tetany. He reviewed 42 reported cases of this disease and added three from his own experience. The cataracts develop with either manifest or latent tetany, and progress despite all treatment which may control other manifestations. It seems that the first lens changes appear as aggregations of fine, opaque granules directly under the anterior and posterior capsules of the lens. Delayed spontaneous haemorrhage may occur after lens extraction. O'Brien advocates that the patient be given a parathyroid hormone, viosterol, and a high calcium intake before and after operation.

Gradle (Chicago) read a short paper on cyclodialysis in simple glaucoma. He concludes that this operation offers chances of success in 80 per cent. of cases provided the indications for the use of the operation are adhered to.

Jonas S. Friedenwald and Pierce (Baltimore) gave a preliminary report of their work on the circulation of the aqueous, its rate of formation, source, outflow and the biochemical problems produced by the variations of its constituents. A. Magitot (Paris), Kronfeld (Chicago), Yudkin (New Haven) and Verhoeff (Boston) discussed this paper. Kirby (New York) read a long paper on the anterior vitreous in health and disease.

Samuels (New York) has made an interesting study of the epipapillary tissues, and his paper is illustrated by several excellent drawings of microscopic sections. de Schweinitz gave a communication on blindness and papilloedema in Guernsey calves, usually bulls, including the results of post-mortem examination of two of the affected animals. He discusses pre-natal influences, familial disease, inbreeding, toxaemia and food poisoning as aetiological factors.

Hardy (New York) read a long paper on scotometry, in which he outlined the history and technique of this method of examination. This paper is very full, and there are numerous photographs, graphs, diagrams and charts, together with 258 plates.


This section dealing with diseases of the uveal tract has been revised and brought up to date by Professor W. Gilbert (Hamburg). The book consists of 254 pages, and there are 77 illustrations in the text, most of which are coloured. These illustrations show
ophthalmoscopic conditions affecting the choroid and retina, and
the morbid anatomy and histology of the diseases of the uveal tract; they are well produced.

At the end of each chapter an exhaustive literature is given, ranging from 1852 to 1929. 63 pages are devoted to a description of the pathology of tuberculous uveitis, and 32 pages to syphilitic lesions in the uveal tract. Much painstaking work has been put into this book, and the author has searched widely in the literature of this subject. The book is well printed on good paper, and the illustrations are excellent.

Cirurgia Ocular. By Dr. W. Belfort Mattos. Sao Paulo, Brasil. 1931.

The first volume of a system of ophthalmic surgery by Dr. Belfort Mattos, of Brazil, provides a résumé of the operative procedures which he employs, together with short descriptions of illustrative cases. In the extraction of cataract he induces akinesia of the lids, uses capsulotomy forceps, and practises a simple extraction with a corneal stitch. For corneal leucomata, optical iridectomy and tattooing are described. For acute glaucoma, a retrobulbar injection of novocaine is advised, and a von Graefe's iridectomy employed; for chronic glaucoma, a modification of the sclerectomy and iridectomy of Lagrange. A considerable section is devoted to the surgical treatment of cysticercus, and the remainder of the book is occupied by plastic surgery of the lids and orbit. There are no references to the literature, and the operative procedures practised by the author are described alone without the discussion of any other alternatives. These, however, are described simply and clearly, and on the whole his teaching is sound. The book is beautifully printed, and well illustrated; the only exceptions to this are figures 8 to 19, which show sections of a cinematograph film of an operation for cataract, but these are so small as to be quite unintelligible, and are printed on a grain so coarse as to render magnification useless.

Ueber den Augendruck und die vorderen Intraokularen Gefässe.

By Sven Larsson. Stockholm. 1930.

An extremely interesting and valuable piece of research on a branch of ocular physiology of which far too little is known and which is of the greatest importance in the clinical treatment of many diseases of the eye is presented by Sven Larsson, of Stockholm, in a monograph entitled "Ueber den Augendruck und die vorderen Intraokularen Gefässe." His researches are partly experimental on rabbits and partly clinical on human subjects and are directly inspired by the work of Sir Thomas Lewis and Sir Henry
Dale on the reactions of the smaller blood vessels. He has studied the behaviour of the smaller vessels—arterioles, capillaries, and veins—in the anterior segment of the globe after stimuli such as trauma and compression of the globe, the subconjunctival or intra-ocular injection of saline and adrenaline, and the administration of eserine and atropine. His observations include the direct examination of the vessels of the iris, the determination of the permeability of their walls by noting the point at which they allow dyes to pass from the blood stream to the eye, and tonometric measurements of the intra-ocular pressure. The work has been carefully done, and corroborates many previous observations: thus he finds that after the instillation of eserine into the conjunctival sac of the normal eye a short primary phase of vaso-dilatation and raised intra-ocular pressure is followed by a more lasting phase wherein the vessels of the anterior segment are constricted and the intra-ocular pressure falls. Similarly atropine is found to dilate the capillaries, but he finds that its action on the pressure on the normal eye is variable and cannot be predicted; it may be that the variability in his results are due to the uninvestigated factor of its effect upon the smooth muscle surrounding the globe. The concluding part of the monograph deals with the effect upon the eyes of rabbits of operative procedures such as paracentesis, iridectomy and cyclodialysis, and the differences in the reactivity of the blood vessels in such eyes compared with the normal. The whole forms a very interesting piece of work, carefully reasoned out and well executed.

Kurzes Handbuch der Ophthalmologie. Auge und Nervensystem.
Julius Springer. 1931. Price, 148 R.M.

The sixth volume of the Kurzes Handbuch der Ophthalmologie is devoted entirely to the eye in its relationship with the central nervous system. It seems anomalous that a large volume of 878 pages in a work which purports to be a short handbook should be entirely devoted to this part of the subject, and certainly the reader cannot complain of lack of elaboration of detail. It is true that there is a certain amount of overlapping which is always a danger in works of composite authorship; thus much of the anatomy is again described although it has already been very fully dealt with in the first volume; deformities such as cyclopia are described and illustrated although they have been fully noticed in the volume which includes congenital anomalies; while in the present volume several conditions are described and re-described by different authors; nevertheless, although perhaps overloaded with detail and containing minute descriptions of several conditions with little immediate ophthalmological interest, the book is an extremely valuable one and unique of its kind.
The first section by Professor Wohlwill, of Hamburg, deals with the pathology of the base of the brain, the basal nuclei, the meninges, the pituitary, the cerebrum, and cerebral tumours. The second by Drs. Bing and Franceschetti, of Basel, is concerned with the pupil, and gives a very useful account of the physiology, pharmacology and pathology of its reactions. The next section by Professor Behr, of Hamburg, deals with the affections of the oculo-motor nerves, their nuclei and central connections, as well as those of the fifth, seventh, and sympathetic. Professor Behr contributes a further section on the pathology of the visual tracts proximal to the chiasma, in which he pays special attention to the effects of cerebral tumours, and the story is continued through the upper visual paths and centres by Quensel, of Leipzig. The latter part includes very useful sections on the different manifestations of aphasia, agnosia and migraine. Two comprehensive sections then deal with the visual manifestations of non-inflammatory and inflammatory disturbances of the central nervous system, the first by Professor Best, of Dresden, and the second by Dr. Kyrieleis, of Würzburg. The last and not the least interesting section of the volume, by Professor Weber, of Chemnitz, deals with psychoses, neuroses, and hysterias. As is the case with the earlier volumes, the present section of the handbook is extremely well printed and illustrated, elaborate in detail, and encyclopaedic in nature; but, while being a valuable addition to reference literature, somewhat misleads the prospective purchaser by its title as part of a short handbook.


Sight-saving classes are an outgrowth of the problem of educating children who are not blind, but possess too little vision to profit by the traditional school procedure. It is interesting to note that this movement began in England in 1908, when a myope was established in the Boundary Lane School, London. About 1889, Dr. J. H. Bell, surgeon to the Bradford Royal Eye and Ear Hospital, stated that myopes needed special educational provision, and at the International School Hygiene Congress in London in 1907, Mr. Bishop Harman discussed this subject. The movement spread to America, where the first class was established in Boston in 1913. Since then there has been a rapid growth in the number of classes, until in 1928 there were 319 classes in 87 communities, in 21 states.

Dr. Myers' purpose in making this exhaustive and detailed study
was to present a national survey that would be of value to the teaching profession already engaged in sight-saving class work, and to educationalists in general.

The sight-saving classes are planned to instruct the pupils with the minimum of eyestrain, to teach them to conserve the vision they possess, and to provide such vocational guidance, and, if necessary, vocational training as will enable them to fill the most useful places in the community that their powers will permit.

Authorities differ concerning the probable number of visually handicapped children which might be expected in any school system. The two most commonly expressed ratios of such children to the total school enrolment are 1 to 500 and 1 to 1,000.

The standards for admission of children to sight-saving classes varied greatly in different communities. Dr. Myers comments on the inadequacy of sight-saving class provisions in rural districts. Investigations were made into the general health of children attending these classes, and in the opinion of the teachers it showed no great variation from the normal.

The four most frequently mentioned eye defects are myopia, hypermetropia, nystagmus and astigmatism. Myopia, combined with other defects, comprised 38.9 per cent. of all those attending these classes.

Over 90 per cent. of the children who had received two vision tests, one on entering the school and another at a later date, had the same or better vision at the time of the second test, but 9.4 per cent. had poorer vision when retested.

Intelligence quotients based on the teachers' judgments gave conflicting and unreliable data. In some instances, the intelligence was stated to be below normal, and in others, the mentality of these children was assessed as above that of the average normal child of similar age.

Half the pupils were enrolled in the sight-saving classes before the age of 9 years and 5 months. Enquiries were made into the promotion rate, and an endeavour made to grade the school subjects in order of proficiency. Reading was mentioned as the best subject in 2.2 per cent. more cases than it was mentioned in the poorest subject. Investigations into the social strata from which the children came were also made.

This book consists of 105 pages, 5 chapters, 35 tables illustrating statistics, and 5 figures. At the end, 3 pages are devoted to the bibliography of this subject, and there is an appendix showing child information sheets and teacher information sheets.

Dr. Myers has taken great pains to collect a mass of statistics that will be of interest to the teacher, social worker, and ophthalmic surgeon.