
This paper is the record of an extensive investigation. Teulières and Beauvieux desire that it should be considered “in some sort as a rehabilitation of the irido-corneal angle” which, conceived by Leber as an area of first-rate physiological importance, has been “cast from its pedestal in recent years, and relegated to the rank of an anatomical zone, indifferent to the functions and vitality of the eye.” That this is no imaginary opinion is obvious from statements such as that expressed by Hamburger, in the Klin. Monatsbl. f. Augenheilk., “Schlemm's canal is assuredly not devoid of function, but its significance and its necessity are not greater than those of the fifth finger or fifth toe.” The views of Leber and the Heidelberg school have been energetically defended and justified by Seidel, Leber's successor. In the 36 pages of this communication will be found an analytical study of the work and theories of various writers, the anatomical and clinical evidence and the results of experimental investigation obtained by Teulières and Beauvieux, and their judgments. It is abundantly illustrated by full-page plates, coloured and uncoloured, and by micro-photographs. A valuable bibliography containing 53 references is appended.

Owing to the length and fullness of detail, an adequate review within ordinary limits is not feasible. Those who consult the original will be repaid by an interesting and clearly expressed account of the subject under discussion.

J. B. Lawford.

BOOK NOTICE


In an original article on Congenital Hereditary Nystagmus, B. Bhaduri surveys briefly the literature of this disease, and describes a patient who came under his care suffering from this complaint. A pedigree of this patient showed that the grandfather on the maternal side suffered from nystagmus, and that the disease was transmitted through one of his daughters, who, although unaffected herself, had five sons, four of whom had nystagmus from birth.

The clinical notes in this journal contain accounts of a case of
The British Journal of Ophthalmology

partially developed Graves' disease; and four types of blackwater fever seen in the Nofussil of Bengal, followed by an editorial note about blackwater fever and its differential diagnosis.

There is a small section devoted to abstracts of current medical literature, and a part of the journal is allotted to ophthalmological abstracts.

Medical news consists of notices about the VIIIth All-India Medical Conference; the Calcutta Gazette with details of hospital appointments; and the proposed examination regulations for the Membership and Licentiaateship of the State Medical Faculty.


This volume contains a list of the officers and committee of the All-India Ophthalmological Society and its ninety members; also the rules and regulations of the Society. There are accounts of the Presidential address, the “welcome speech” and the “opening speech.” Twenty-three papers were read before the Society, many of which were illustrated.

Five papers were devoted to cataract, its operative treatment, complications and results. In one paper, Sir William Bowman was quoted as having written that he never laid down a method of extraction for universal application, but always operated as seemed best for the individual case at the time. In the same paper the author advocated that a surgeon who was not equally skilful with either hand, should adopt that method of operating which was of the best advantage to the patient. The intra- and extra-capsular operations were fully discussed, and the results compared. Some surgeons were in favour of the intra-capsular method for specially selected cases, but the majority preferred some form of the extra-capsular operation. The problems of operating on immature cataracts, uni-ocular cataract, extracting both lenses at the same time, and preliminary iridectomy were dealt with, and opinions on these matters expressed. One surgeon stated that couching for cataract is a justifiable operation where the patient is insane or suffers from a severe cough and insomnia. Pre-operative preparation, methods, and technical modification in operating and post-operative treatment and after-care were discussed.

In a paper on “Some Observations on the Treatment of Glaucoma,” Banaji compares the operations of iridectomy, cyclo-dialysis, iridencleisis and trephining. He believes that cyclo-dialysis should be given a trial, and if this fails, then iridencleisis or a trephine operation.

There is a paper devoted to a description of the eye lesions due to syphilis, and an interesting description of a case of Mickulicz's syndrome. At the end of this volume there is an account of
ophthalmology in ancient India, the development of ophthalmology in Europe and India, and India's contributions to the knowledge of eye diseases and their treatment.

This volume consists of 163 pages, including the index and 23 plates, one of which is coloured.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

SIRS,—The interesting reference made to the vision and refraction of the eyes of fishes in the Journal for April, 1932, raises anew many important considerations. Mr. Mayou found by retinoscopy that the eyes of fresh water fish examined were emmetropic or hypermetropic.

In the original paper published in the Wien. klinisch. Wochenschr. (Jahrgang, 1898) under the heading of an article entitled "Die Accommodation des Auges in der Thierreihe" Beer draws attention to the fact that the percipient layers of the retina in cephalopods and in fishes give discrepant results when the refraction is estimated by retinoscopy. The cephalopod has a retina with the percipient layer on the inner side of the eye adjoining the vitreous, whilst the fish on the other hand, following the usual arrangement met with in the higher animal kingdom, has the percipient layers on the outside of the retina and in the case of the fish the retina is unusually thick.

He pointed out that the retinoscopy indicated refraction at the surface and that consequently a substantial allowance in the case of the fish should be made in estimating the refraction of the percipient layers.

Furthermore his work was done on fishes under the influence of curare. If this precaution had not been observed the fish may well have been accommodating, as they do from the near to the far, by pulling the lens backwards.

Beer examined fishes eyes in water when the animals were under curare and were kept alive by artificial respiration. He examined them both for retinoscopy and by the direct method. He concluded that eyes which appeared to be somewhat hypermetropic were myopic and those which showed low grades of myopia were highly myopic. He further found that the range of accommodation varied as the degree of myopia and ranged from 2·0 D. to 10·0 D. and that in most fishes the eye could be rendered emmetropic by accommodation.

This may have taken place in the eyes examined by Mr. Mayou.