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.

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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.
The subject of the method of accommodation in animals has become extraordinarily interesting because of the destructive criticism of theories of evolution which arise from a knowledge of the ascertained facts.

I am, etc.,

JAMES W. BARRETT.

MELBOURNE,

May 21, 1932.

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A LATE SIXTEENTH CENTURY OPHTHALMIC BOOK IN ENGLISH

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To the Editors of The British Journal of Ophthalmology.

SIRS,—In the article on A Late Sixteenth Century Ophthalmic Book in English which appeared in the June issue of the Journal, it was suggested that the translator of Jacques Guillemeau’s Maladies de l’Oeil, whose initials are given as A. H., was one A. Hunton—a suggestion based on the imperfectly legible name given on the title page of a copy of the first issue of the translation. Pending the finding of another copy, this reading must remain conjectural. It was also rashly stated that “no information on A. Hunton could be traced.”

Mr. R. R. James has kindly drawn my attention to some of the untraceable information. Thus Venn’s Alumni Cantabrigienses, Vol. III gives “Hunton or Humpton, Anthony, sizar from Christs, June, 1575., B.A., 1578-9, M.A., 1582. Licensed to practice medicine 1589. Author, Verses (Cooper II, 241).” The verses referred to are shown in C. H. Cooper and Thompson’s Athenae Cantab. as commendatory lines to Gerard’s Herbal (1597). They are in Latin, with interspersed Greek quotations. Further search has discovered an excellent account of Anthony Hunton, M.D., an Elizabethan Physician, and his connexion with Harrogate by W. J. Kaye in the Thoresby Society Miscellanea, Vol. XXVIII, p. 212. 1925. It appears that Hunton was born “about the year 1560, probably in Lincolnshire” and began to practise medicine at Newark-upon-Trent “at least as early as 1593.” In 1606, James I nominated him as Lecturer in Medicine at Gresham College, but it was Dr. Mounsell, another Royal nominee, who was chosen “Phisick Lecturer.” He was keenly interested in the development of Harrogate as a Spa and a contemporary speaks of him as a “famous Physitian.” Judging by a record of fines and by his will, he seems to have had extensive monetary dealings.