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.

A LATE SIXTEENTH CENTURY OPHTHALMIC BOOK IN ENGLISH

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.

The *Subsidy Roll* (Newark documents) contains the record of his burial. "Mr. Anthony Hunton, Doctor, 24 Dec., 1624." Kaye holds that it was probably "the wise counsel of the experienced Puritan scholar physician of Newark" that caused Harrogate to rise rapidly in contemporary esteem.

Mr. James also points out that in his brother's book (W. A. James, *Southwell Grammar and Song Schools*; Lincoln, Ruddock, 1927) there is an entry concerning one Anthony Hunton as chorister of Southwell Minster in 1574; but Mr. W. A. James does not think that this entry refers to the subject of his note.

If the Anthony Hunton of Kaye's paper is indeed the translator of Guillemeau, Kaye under-estimates Hunton's literary activities when he says that the prefatory verses to Gerard's *Herbal* are his sole literary achievement, for in addition to the translation, there are also extant the prefatory letter and verses to John Banister's *Compendius Chirurgie* (1585).

Yours, etc.

ARNOLD SORSBY.

NOTES

Death

As we go to press, we learn with much regret of the death of Mr. J. F. Cunningham, O.B.E. A fuller notice will appear in our next issue.

* * * *

Honour

MR. PRIESTLEY SMITH has been elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine.

DR. D. D. PATON, Ophthalmic Surgeon of Perth, Australia, has been appointed President-Elect of the Fourth Australian Medical Congress which is to be held in Perth, Western Australia, in the near future.

* * * *

The Janus Stolp Prize

THE governors of the "Janus Stolp" foundation (*Legatum Stolpianum*) in the University of Leiden, at their meeting on the 25th May, 1932, decided on the following subject for their biennial scientific competition :—

"An original contribution on the Psychology of the Knowledge of Space in the Blind."