Clinical Ophthalmology for House Surgeons and Students.
By J. Myles Bickerton, M.A., B.Ch.(Cantab.), F.R.C.S.,
and L. H. Savin, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. Pp. 147. 92
illustrations (including 6 plates). H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd.
1933. Price, 7/6 net.

The authors have intended this book for house surgeons and
students. It contains chapters on methods of examination, diseases
of the lids and orbit, "forms" of conjunctivitis, "some affections"
of the iris, ciliary body and sclera, corneal diseases, diseases of
the lacrimal apparatus, cataract, glaucoma, sight-testing for begin-
ners, squint, ocular injuries and ophthalmoscopic appearances in
disease. A chapter is devoted to prescriptions and therapeutic
agents, and there is an illustrated appendix of instruments required
for certain ophthalmic operations.

There are several omissions in pathological descriptions, but
these are mostly outside the scope of such a work. In the account
of operations a 2 mm. trephine is advised as a routine for chronic
glaucoma and no mention is made of the 1.5 mm. trephine which
is used by the majority of surgeons. Also a button-hole iridectomy
is recommended before extraction of the lens is made in cataract
operations. Such phrases as the Graefe knife is "stuck" into the
eye, a discussion needle is "pulled out" of the anterior chamber,
and the lens capsule is "scratched," ill express the precise and
delicate handicraft of ophthalmic surgery.

From a house surgeon's point of view, this book is disappointing,
except for a few words about bandaging cataract cases and post-
operative delirium, there is no account of the post-operative
treatment of cases, the complications that may arise, and the
methods of dealing with these. Even the description of casualty
work in removing foreign bodies and the methods of treating
ocular injuries is scanty and inadequate.


This, the second edition of Professor Argañaraz's excellent text-
book, has been brought thoroughly up to date by the inclusion
of the salient features of all the recent work on such subjects as
biomicroscopy and detachment of the retina. The book is primarily
intended for students, undergraduate or post-graduate, and its
author states that it is in reality a full transcription of the course
of instruction at his hospital. He strongly condemns the practice
of note-taking by students at lectures and demonstrations, first, on account of the distraction of the mind from the actual observation of the case, and secondly, because no one can possibly take down everything. He has, therefore, tried to provide in book-form all the information which he seeks to impart at his lectures, and the result is eminently successful. Throughout the book stress is laid both on the necessity for a knowledge of the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the eye, and on the even greater importance of realizing the connection between ocular and general disease. He emphasizes the necessity of a complete and thorough examination, both of the eye itself and of the symptomatology of the patient.

The book begins, characteristically, with his Inaugural Lecture at his appointment in 1925. It is thereafter divided into 23 chapters, dealing exhaustively with diseases of the eye and adnexa, and with the diagnosis of nervous and other general diseases presenting ocular signs. There are numerous clear and well-reproduced illustrations, 589 in all, a large number in colours. The book is written in an extremely clear and simple style, and although from the amount of information it contains it must of necessity be condensed, the number of illustrations makes it possible for the student with no previous knowledge of ophthalmology to follow it easily. It is altogether a most excellent production, and Professor Argañaraz is to be heartily congratulated.


This monograph of Dr. von Grolman issued from the clinic of Professor Raul Argañaraz deals exhaustively with the clinical uses of the diathermic current in ophthalmology up to the beginning of 1932. It is perhaps unfortunate that the latest and most hopeful development of this therapeutic measure, namely, its application to the cure of detachment of the retina, has occurred too recently for its inclusion in the work. Apart from this inevitable omission however, the monograph supplies a most exhaustive and useful account of the employment of high-frequency currents. After a short chapter on the history of the diathermic current, the author gives a full account of its nature, of its various forms and of the principal types of apparatus used to produce it. The electrodynamics of the current are gone into and there are numerous excellent and simple diagrams of possible circuits in the different forms of apparatus. The question of special electrodes for use in eye work is then dealt with, after which the physical and biological effects of the current are indicated. The next section considers the
indications for its use. These are of two classes, depending on the type of current one is dealing with. In the first instance, all inflammatory conditions demanding the application of heat to the part can be so treated since the diathermy current generates heat in the tissues themselves to a far greater and more accurately controllable extent than do external applications such as the fomentation or the electric pad. Secondly, the coagulating and cutting currents (diathermy knife) can be used to produce haemostasis and to remove neoplasms when dealing with the adnexa. The last section contains case histories and photographs of 89 of the author's own patients, and includes such conditions as epithelioma of the lid, episcleritis, blepharitis, angioma, rodent ulcer, lymphatic cyst, xanthelasma palpebrarum, trachoma, phlyctenular conjunctivitis, iritis, interstitial keratitis and other corneal disorders. The cases were in part obviously experimental. The results are set out impartially and no exaggerated claim is made for the treatment, nevertheless, one gathers a definite impression that the method may be deserving a somewhat wider use than it enjoys at present.


Park Lewis in this interesting paper has given an account of the preventive work done in connection with diseases of the eye and in particular, ophthalmia neonatorum. He alludes to the dictum of a distinguished Italian jurist, that if you would have a thought accepted it must be repeated five times; the first time it receives no attention; the second it is not heard; the third it is not understood; the fourth it is not believed; therefore it is necessary to say it a fifth time. In 1881, Crede published his discovery that an infection of the eyes which was causing one-quarter of the blindness in young children throughout the world, could be effectively prevented by a simple measure that any intelligent person could use. However, in spite of the interest taken in this matter, and the efforts of a small group of English people called the London Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Crede's preventive work in ophthalmia neonatorum was not practised at all widely for a quarter of a century. In 1908, certain procedures were advised (1) the registration of births; (2) the supervisory control and licensing of midwives by the boards of public health; (3) that a midwife must report any case of ophthalmia neonatorum in her practice; (4) free distribution of ampoules containing the prophylactic agent; (5) that records of ophthalmia neonatorum be kept.
Until these measures were adopted in America the incidence of blindness from ophthalmia neonatorum was around 26 per cent. of all children entering blind schools. In 1931, the figure had fallen to 7.5 per cent.

The necessity for International co-operation in the preventive work of blindness has been recognized and at the conclusion of the Ophthalmological Congress in Holland in 1929, an International Association for the Prevention of Blindness and an International League for the Control of Trachoma were formed.

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**OBITUARY**

**ARTHUR COOKE, of Cambridge**

The sudden death of Mr. Cooke on March 13 was noted in our last number.

The son of Mr. H. J. Cooke, of Bradford, Arthur Cooke was born in 1869. He was educated at Giggleswick, New College, Oxford and the London Hospital. At Oxford he obtained his blue for cross-country running. He qualified M.B., B.Ch., at Oxford in 1895, and on the advice of Sir Frederick Treves, joined a well-known firm of general practitioners in Cambridge. In 1898, he became M.A., Cantab. and took the F.R.C.S., Eng. Appointed assistant surgeon to Addenbrooke's Hospital about 30 years ago, he was, at the time of his death, senior surgeon and head of the Ophthalmic Department. He was always interested in ophthalmology, having been a student at Moorfields. He joined the Ophthalmological Society in 1901.

Cooke held the rank of Major, R.A.M.C. (T), before the war, and on the outbreak of hostilities he was attached to the First Eastern General Hospital. Most of his service was in France, attached to various military hospitals with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel.

At the end of the war he gave up general practice and confined himself to general surgery, as a consultant, and to ophthalmology.

He will be much missed at Cambridge and in the surrounding Counties. He was an ex-president of the Cambridge Medical Society. A lasting monument to an able surgeon and a very charming personality will be the new Eye Wards at Addenbrooke's, which are nearing completion, in the raising of funds for which he was indefatigable.

To his widow and surviving children the sympathy of the ophthalmic fraternity will go out in their bereavement.