
The author of this work is to be congratulated on many things, but first and foremost on the fact that he has written a book which gives the anatomy of the eye as well as of the orbit. Here indeed is the ophthalmologist's complete anatomy, written lucidly and illustrated in the way an anatomy book should be, namely by line diagrams and wash drawings and not by photographs of wet specimens. A drawing can be faithful to nature and yet represent more than the unaided camera, a point which is made evident time and again in the numerous illustrations in this volume. A large number of these are from the author's own dissections. The fact that he is an ophthalmologist as well as an anatomist gives an added value to his work, since the dissections show points of clinical as well as of purely anatomical interest. A good example of this is a set of three serial dissections (Figs. 90-92) of the orbit from above, in which in addition to the orbital contents, there are represented the ethmoidal air cells and the frontal sinus in a way which makes one realize the close and extensive relationships of their structures to the eye and its appendages. With regard to the subject matter of the book, it consists of a systematic account of the bony structure of the orbit, the eye, its adnexa and cerebral connections. There are also chapters on the normal appearances of the eye as seen with the slit-lamp and corneal microscope, on the development of the eye and on its comparative anatomy. One is glad to see this last included in a standard reference book since its perusal cannot but help readers to a fuller understanding of the human eye.

Where so much is excellent, it may be invidious to criticise, but the diagram on page 135 seems to be of little assistance in elucidating the actions of the extra-ocular muscles other than the internal and external recti. In the text, the author divides these into main and subsidiary, but Fig. 74 makes it appear as though these muscles had only one action, apart from producing wheel motion, and is also confusing in that the superior oblique has to appear below the circle which represents the eye, and the inferior oblique above it. The other diagrams as has already been said however, are so good that their merits far outweigh any criticism which may be made against one of them. The drawing of a dissection (Fig. 77) to show the course of the third and fourth nerves for instance is an admirable example of simplicity and lucidity. It is not only the illustrations which call for praise, the letterpress and general arrangement are of equal merit and eminently readable.
The book is one which will have permanent value, to the student as a means of learning his anatomy and to the man established in practice as a vade mecum which he will often consult.


There must be few nowadays who cannot look back to the period when retinal detachment was the bugbear of ophthalmic surgery, leading in the vast majority of instances to blindness of one or both eyes in spite of all treatment.

That this unhappy state of affairs is at the present time much ameliorated is due to the work of Jules Gonin, whose assistant, Noëlle Bercioux has now published an excellent epitome of the history of the various attempts which have been made in the past to treat cases of retinal detachment. She begins with Saint-Yves, who, in 1736, was relying on a broth compound of crayfish. The reviewer is here reminded of the fact that the arch and satirical Laurence Sterne, writing from Montpellier in 1764, added the following postscript to his letter:—"My physicians have almost poisoned me with what they call bouillons refraichissants—'tis a cock flayed alive and boiled with poppy seeds, then pounded in a mortar, afterwards passed through a sieve—There is to be one crawfish in it, and I was gravely told it must be a male one—a female would do me more hurt than good." Did Saint-Yves order male crayfish for his detachments in the male sex?

The first chapter deals with the attempts of evacuation of the sub-retinal fluid, first practised by James Ware in 1812, treatment by compression bandage and subconjunctival injections. In the next section are retailed the attempts to control hypotony, to increase the intra-ocular pressure and those which aimed at reducing the size of the globe. The third chapter describes the attempts to create an adhesive choroido-retinitis which date from Bowman in 1863 and from Galezowski nine years later. In chapter four the traction exercised on the retina by the vitreous is discussed. The final chapter, comprising about half the book, is given over to the pathological studies of Leber of which Gonin's treatment is the brilliant outcome. A table of case-reports for the years 1928-1932 shows the way in which surgeons all over the world have followed Gonin's technique. This technique is described together with the various apparatus designed to facilitate localization of the retinal tear, and finally other methods of treatment as those of Lindner and Guist, Weve, and Safar are discussed.

The book is well got up, is well documented and easy to read. It forms a very pleasant literary memorial of Gonin's pioneer work and there should be a big demand for it.