BOOK NOTICES


Both the publishers and scientists, especially medical men, must congratulate themselves upon the well-deserved success of the "Recent Advances Series." It was an excellent idea, and has been well carried out. The success of the volume on ophthalmology is shown by the fact that it has reached a third edition, and its future success is ensured by the wise policy of replacing old material by the latest advances in other branches of the subject.

In this edition work on the vitreous and the effects of drugs upon the eye has been brought up-to-date. Specially interesting and indicative of future therapeutic value is the significance of the discoveries by Sir Henry Dale and others on histamine, acetylcholine, etc., to ophthalmology. The chapter on intra-ocular infections introduces new facts and ideas into this much discussed topic, and is characterized by a sanity of outlook which is itself almost an innovation. The treatment of ocular neoplasms by radiant energy, the aetiology of trachoma, herpes corneae, keratoplasty, and contact glasses are sections which deserve notice; but the chief addition of importance to clinicians is the excellent chapter on the modern treatment of detachment of the retina.

The book fully maintains the high reputation which previous editions have merited, and is an indispensable addition to every ophthalmologist's library.


That this textbook has reached its 7th edition is a testimony to its worth. It has been carefully revised by Mr. Hine, particularly the chapters on diseases of the lacrimal apparatus, glaucoma, cataract, squint and heterophoria and retinal detachment in which descriptions of recent advances and modern operative technique have been given. The practical points in the prescribing and fitting of contact glasses and the newer methods of orthoptic training are described. This book is essentially for the student and general practitioner to whom it should prove a useful clinical guide. It presents in a clear, concise and lucid manner the salient features of the more common ocular disorders, rarities receiving but brief
attention. In spite of much new matter the size of the book has been increased by 30 pages only. This has been effected by the omission of some paragraphs and sections in previous editions. Two new coloured plates have been added and many new illustrations, more in keeping with modern practice, have replaced some of those in the last edition. The illustrations are on the whole good.


The author describes in detail the different methods in eye operations on various animals.

In the introduction he deals with the necessity, or rather non-necessity of vivisection, since it is not only possible but inevitable to anaesthetise the animals, either generally or locally. He first enumerates the instruments necessary, and goes on later to anaesthesia. For general anaesthesia he is in favour of urethane and tincture of opium rectally.

The next chapter contains the operative methods employed, of which the description of the access to the ciliary ganglion is most important. The details have to be read in the original. The enucleation of the globe he describes as being very much the same operation as in human beings.

Going on to the more important part of his work, Velhagen describes the physiological experiments used by himself and other research workers. These experiments are mostly too complicated to be explained here, but nevertheless, are well worth reading. The same applies to the apparatus used. The whole description is very complete, and includes experiments with the isolated eye itself, with the sphincter and dilatators, as well as the muscles of the iris as a whole.

The next important chapter concerns the movements of the pupil and its cinematography, including experiments on change of eye fluids, muscles of eye and lid, function of lacrymal gland and sac.

He closes with temperature measurements of the eye and a short review on ophthalmoscopy in various animals.


Nordenson gives first a short historical description of the development of fundus photography. At the present time the apparatus used for this purpose is devised by Wertheim-Salomonsohn and by the author. Only Nordenson's camera is described. There are two
different apparatus, the monocular and the stereoscopic; the only difference being a monocular chamber in the first and a stereo-
chamber in the second variation.

In constructing his camera the author follows Gullstrand’s principles for the simple ophthalmoscope. A detailed description
of the apparatus is given, the complicated ophthalmographic lens explained, and also particulars of usage, which is relatively simple
if certain rules are observed. The manipulation of the stereoscopic camera is entirely similar to the one just mentioned.

The author also includes a short note on coloured pictures of the
 fundus which at present do not seem to be very satisfactory.

Nordenson also mentions without further details that Pavia does
ophthalmocinematography.

Das Glaucomproblem und die Glaucomoperationen. By Leopold

In a book of little more than 100 pages the author discusses his
personal experience of glaucoma including aetiology, the different
categories of the disease and the operative and non-operative
treatment.

Of primary glaucoma he recognises two different kinds, namely,
glaucoma simplex and the inflammatory or intermittent glaucoma;
 neither glaucoma prodromale nor glaucoma absolutum is acknow-
ledged by Müller. Regarding aetiology he follows Leber’s theory;
heredity plays a big part, particularly in inflammatory glaucoma.

The main features of inflammatory glaucoma are:—(a) site:
parasympathetic third nerve; (b) sudden water formation plus
sudden blockage of the anterior chamber; (c) often hereditary;
(d) irritability of the vegetative nerve system; (e) often latent;
(f) attacks with oedema of the anterior part of the eye, as well as of
oedema of the papilla with peribulbar inflammation; (g) real hyper-
tension excavation; (h) always hypertension; (i) intermittent
course; (j) sometimes spontaneous cure, also cure by means of
drugs or iridectomy without drainage.

As main features of glaucoma simplex the author points out as
site of the disease:—(a) ciliary “gland”; (b) continual hyper-
secretion, plus increased discharge of what he calls “liquor
ophthalmicus,” which means the liquor of the chambers plus the
liquor of the vitreous body; (c) heredity, rare; (d) never latent;
(e) no attacks; (f) always excavation owing to death of tissues and
formation of caverns in contradistinction to the formation of an
excavation in inflammatory glaucoma, which is always caused by
hypertension; (g) hypertension may be present or absent; (h) cure
only possible by adequate drainage for the liquor ophthalmicus.

In the second part of the book, Müller discusses operations. In
this division his ideas follow more or less the usual lines. He
points out the importance of fields of vision, the opacity of the vitreous body and excavation; the result is dependent on all these. He never lets the patient use drops, either eserine or pilocarpine, continuously after the first operation, because of the possibility of missing the right time for the second operation in unhealed cases. The operations he employs for glaucoma simplex are:—cycloidalysis, which is particularly effective in cases of aphakia; and a similar operation called cycloidalysis plus depressio lenti. The main operation for glaucoma simplex is trephining with a modification concerning the incision called transcorneal trephine plus peripheral iridectomy. For inflammatory glaucoma his operation of choice is iridectomy with minor modifications.

The non-operative treatment differs in no way from that usually employed.

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR RAMON Y CAJAL

The death of Ramon y Cajal should not pass unnoticed in an ophthalmological journal, for it was largely due to his pioneer work in the histology of the central nervous system that our knowledge of the histology of the retina is as complete as it is. Ramon y Cajal was born in 1852, the son of a doctor; he devoted the greater part of his life to histology and in due course his name became a household word far outside the borders of Spain. The most modest of men he valued the honours which came to him, not so much on his own account as that through him his native country was honoured. He was a Foreign Member of the Royal Society, Croonian Lecturer and Nobel Prizeman as well as Life Senator of Spain. His health did not allow of his meeting his ophthalmological frères at the Congress in Madrid last year, but each member attending was presented with a beautiful little medallion of him.

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PROFESSOR FRITZ ASK

We regret to record the death in October last of Fritz Ask, of Lund, the well-known Swedish ophthalmologist. He was a member of the Editorial Board of Acta Ophthalmologica from its inception in 1924 and did very good work on myopia, the development of the lacrimal passages, treatment of dislocated lens and the vitreous, and intraocular pressure. He was also interested in military ophthalmology. In all he was the author of thirty-five papers and two monographs.