and gonorrhoea, also for bacillus coli and bacillus proteus, the pneumobacillus, staphylococcus and streptococcus. City sewage is the richest source of phage, and the latter is obtained from it by filtration. For clinical use, the infecting organism must be isolated and tested on a culture medium against the phage to be employed, on account of its high specificity. Adopting this precaution, the authors have, up to date, treated successfully 20 cases of eye disease, including dacryocystitis (two cases where the infection was staphylococcal) styes, meibomian cysts, an orbital abscess and a corneal ulcer. They state that the series is too small to justify the drawing of any sweeping conclusions though it seems to show that the action of phage may play an important rôle in the phenomenon of recovery.

F. A. W-N.

BOOK NOTICES


The author introduces his subject by giving a summary of the physical properties of the electro-magnetic waves concerned in "radiant energy."

In the section dealing with ultra-violet rays he gives a brief account of their effects on the tissues of the eye and of their action in general and local phototherapy. In this field of work he has enjoyed special experience as medical officer in charge of the physico-therapeutic department at the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital. Therapeutic technique is described and case records are given followed by a survey of the results and the conclusions to be drawn from these.

The author has addressed himself critically to the difficult task of assessing the value of ultra-violet light therapy in a number of pathological conditions of the eye, many of which were receiving other forms of local and general treatment at the same time. His search for the truth has been complicated by the natural tendency of some diseases to improve in spite of any treatment; by the limited material available in certain disorders; by failure of patients to attend regularly; and other factors. With these difficulties before him his conclusions as to the value of phototherapy in ocular diseases are broad and of necessity somewhat indefinite.
They are tinged with a wholesome scepticism, but show, nevertheless, a realization of the value of phototherapy in certain ocular disorders.

The text is heavy with statistics arranged in groups and concerning averages of the age incidence, duration of the particular disease, the number of treatments, cures, improvements and other items. Many of these details become so tangled in the skein of clinical descriptions and case reports that their significance is not clear, and they even encumber the matter of the author's argument.

Something in the nature of case commentaries culled from the author's large practical experience of this subject would have made more lively reading.

In the section dealing with "radium rays," the author describes very briefly certain diseases of the eye which are suitable for radiotherapy. He casts doubt on the fantastic claims of certain observers, particularly in the treatment of lens opacities by radium, which the reviewer understands has now been abandoned by those who originally used it. His statement that "experiments go to show that radium is of value in the treatment of tuberculous lesions of the conjunctiva, cornea and iris" must be received with some reserve.

In referring to the treatment of certain neoplasms affecting the outer tunics of the eye, there are a few minor descriptive inaccuracies, such as the headings, "epithelioma of the sclerotic," "epithelioma of the cornea," which the author probably intends for epithelioma of the conjunctiva invading the cornea and sclera by infiltration.

The experimental work in connection with the effect of X-rays on the eyes, particularly the irradiation of developing eyes in utero, is briefly described. There is also a short account of the clinical application of X-rays in certain ophthalmic disorders and of their pathogenicity. Three pages are devoted to the effects of infra-red rays on the eyes. At the end of the monograph there is a reproduction of a circular letter sent to patients for follow-up purposes; and a list of references.

Medical Work. Ukraine.

Nos. 6 and 7 of "Medical Work," published by the State at Kharkoff (Ukraine) in 1933, contain the usual appeal for unity to proletarians of all countries, and the "New Surgical Archiv.," published in 1933, at Dniepropetrovsk, by the Surgical Section of the Scientific Council of the Ukrainian Commissariat for Public Health present to the reader a mixture of high intellectual and professional achievement with a rather low general level. Intensive medical work is being carried on in the universities, institutes and
laboratories of the Soviet Union; a vast army of enthusiastic and often brilliant workers is engaged in research and its practical application in life. For instance, a patient was demonstrated at a medical society in Kieff, who was successfully operated upon and freed from intracardial adhesions.

From the purely ophthalmological point of view the work of Professor Filatoff (Odessa) and his co-workers ought to be cited. Filatoff is engaged in removing opacities of the cornea and replacing them by a transparent graft taken from the enucleated eye of another patient. A special plate is introduced into the anterior chamber of the affected eye to protect the lens and iris. The opacity is then excised by trephining through the whole thickness of the cornea. The graft is fixed in position by a bridge of conjunctiva. It is important that the opacity be well defined and free from any trace of inflammation. The vision of the right eye of one patient before operation was 3/60, and ten months after the operation, with correcting lenses, it was 42/60 (O.F.). In 26 suitable cases Filatoff claims 54 per cent. successful results and he thinks that in the future it may even reach 66 per cent.

The printing and illustrations are badly done, with many misprints, and the paper is poor.


This small handbook should prove invaluable to those engaged in teaching physiology. The experiments described are all simple to perform, and require a minimum of apparatus. The results they give are of fundamental importance in the understanding of some of the problems involved in ophthalmology. The author is a well-known authority on the physiology of vision and those who read this booklet will agree that he has succeeded in "collecting under one cover all the profitable and practical exercises to be found in a scattered literature."

In the four years which have elapsed since the appearance of the sixth edition, a great deal of new work has been published. This has been carefully sifted by the author and that which was good and of fundamental importance has been included in the new edition. This has meant the re-writing of portions of the book, but its essential characteristics remain. It is a book written primarily for students. The descriptions of diseases, their treatment and aetiology are therefore lucid. The illustrations are clear and well executed. The text concerns itself with matters of real importance, not with vague theories which may have little foundation in fact, or with fancy methods of treatment which may enjoy a vogue for a few years and then pass into oblivion. The author is to be congratulated upon the achievement of a difficult task, the welding of the old with the new, and the forging of the whole into a metal which will resist the corrosive actions of time and criticism.

**Biomicroscopia del Margine Palpebrale e della Congiuntiva.**


Though the slit-lamp and the microscope have been much used in examination of the cornea and the parts lying behind, and the literature on this is very extensive, comparatively small attention has been paid to the examination of the lids and conjunctiva by this method and little has been written. Dr. Emanuele Panico has produced a text-book of the appearances of these parts in health and disease, and has supplemented it by an Atlas giving representations of all the more usual conditions met with. The first sections deals with the normal anatomy of the conjunctiva and lid margins; the account of the vessels on the tarsal surfaces of the lids is particularly clear and good. In the description of the lymphatics of the bulbar conjunctiva, Panico distinguishes a perivascular and an autonomous series. In the examination of the parts, both in health and disease, Panico has occasionally made use of vital colours, both by instillation and subconjunctival injection; he advises that these colours should be used only in few cases, since they occasion some discomfort to the subject and do not give any definite help to diagnosis in doubtful cases of disease of the conjunctiva.

The second part of the book is given up to pathological conditions of the palpebral margins.

The third, which is practically one-half of the whole, treats of the pathology of the conjunctiva; this part is the most detailed and interesting; Panico treats fully of the diagnosis of the various forms of follicles and papillae of the conjunctiva and his
descriptions of the points on which diagnosis depends are clear and helpful.

The plates which accompany and illustrate most of the conditions described are well drawn, and emphasize the points of the letter-press.

The Medical Annual, 1934. Bristol: John Wright and Sons. Price, 20/-.

The fifty-second year of this review of current medical literature will be found to be, as usual, indispensable to the busy practitioner. The general scheme is so well-known that no words of ours are necessary in elaboration.

The ophthalmological section is by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, who gives admirable epitomes of recent work on such subjects as cataract, myopia, conjunctival diseases, optic nerve diseases, retinal detachment and recurrent vitreous haemorrhage. These are well balanced and just what are needed in a book of this kind. The section on cataract draws attention to the Montgomery Lecture by Maurice Whiting, which is full of common sense. Among other points the pre-operative bacteriological examination of a conjunctival smear in all cases is emphasized, and such matters as adequate control of the orbicularis by injections of novocaine are discussed. All concerned in the production of this volume are to be congratulated on its punctual appearance. The volume is enriched with a liberal supply of illustrations, several of them in colour.

NOTES

Appointment

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North of England Ophthalmological Society. Officers of the North of England Ophthalmological Society on April 20, 1934-35:—President: Mr. J. D. McCulloch, Bradford; Vice-President: Mr. Neil McInnes, Oldham; Members of Council: Mr. J. S. Arkle, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Mr. J. Fison, Harrogate; Treasurer: Mr. W. H. Kiep, Bradford; Secretary: Mr. Percival J. Hay, Sheffield.