females. Here the approximation between the hypermetropia and myopia groups has now reached parity, for one half of these pupils were found to be myopic. These relative proportions are striking, but the number of cases is small. The results may or may not have some relation to the amount of study associated with these higher grade schools. Myopic people are often mentally equipped for higher-grade work and their personal inclinations frequently lie in the same direction. Thus there may be selective influences at work in this group.

Some years ago I collected 1,500 consecutive cases of myopia and investigated their family histories. These were hospital cases and were of all ages. The task occupied two years. It was observed that where a parent, father or mother, was myopic then that parent transmitted myopia to two girls for one boy. This is not always obvious in individual families, but it is obvious when families are taken collectively.

These cases are not quite comparable with the school percentages, but nevertheless the school figures move steadily towards this ratio of two girls for one boy. Both sets of figures seem to be parts of one and the same process, namely the operation of a law of inheritance that does not become fully manifest till we reach adult life.

INVITATION MEETING OF THE BELGIAN OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Belgian Ophthalmological Society invited a number of guests from adjoining countries to a special Congress during the continuance of the great International Exhibition at Brussels this year. The meetings were held on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd September, and among the guests were representatives from France, Holland, Spain, Switzerland and Great Britain. The scientific business was conducted in the new hospital of Saint-Pierre, which from now onwards will replace the old hospital of Saint-Jean as the Medical School of the University.

Dr. M. Danis, who succeeds Prof. Coppez as Professor of Ophthalmology in the University of Brussels, presided over the meetings and we congratulate him heartily on the equipment of his new ophthalmic department at Saint-Pierre.

On Saturday afternoon (21st) we had two lectures, one by a Physician, Dr. Paul Govaerts, Professor of Medicine in the University, on the physiopathology of kidney inflammations, the
second by Dr. Danis himself on the ocular complications of nephritis. In the evening there was a reception at the Hôtel de Ville.

On Sunday morning an extremely interesting lecture was given by Dr. Jeandelize, of the University of Nancy, on the relations of the hypophysis to vision, and also one by Dr. Weekers, of the University of Liège, on the treatment of hyper-tension complicating iridocyclitis. Following these papers there was an official lunch, with Professor van Duyse in the Chair.

On the Monday morning there was an official visit to the picture gallery in the International Exhibition, and visitors were conducted round it by the Secretary of the Art Collection. After lunch we saw other sections of the wonderful Exhibition, which is so very well worth a visit.

We offer our very hearty thanks to our Belgian friends for having made our visit so extremely pleasant and for the great hospitality displayed to us. Our only regret is that so few members of the Ophthalmological Society of Great Britain availed themselves of the opportunity of going over as the guests of the Belgian Ophthalmological Society and of seeing their great Exhibition.

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ABSTRACTS

I.—CONJUNCTIVA AND CORNEA


(1) Michaelson’s article is more bacteriological than clinical. In all cases cultures were made from the 433 cases examined; in 97 cases direct examination of the smear was done as well. Only the conclusions can be given here. (I) The great variation that exists between the bacteriology of conjunctivitis in Glasgow and other parts of the globe. (II) The importance of using cultures in the bacteriological examination of the conjunctiva. (III) The pneumococcus, when found in the conjunctiva, is nearly always Group 4. (typed by Dr. Robert Cruikshank of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary). (IV) The rareness of pure Koch-Weeks infection among adults. (V) The association between dental disease and conjunctivitis due to the streptococcus and the staphylococcus.