

theology and religion, and fiction, the last-named being much the largest group. In addition there is a large and valuable collection of music, and a small collection of books in Esperanto. All the music and nearly all the books are in Braille type; a small but much needed group (roughly 600 volumes) is in Moon type. The latter are especially in demand by those who, becoming blind in old age, are often unable to learn to read Braille. The circulation of books and music by this library is about 450 volumes a day.

There are, or were until quite recently, five other important libraries with a large circulation of books:—(a) The Home Teaching Society, about 8,500 volumes; (b) the Glasgow Mission to the Outdoor Blind, nearly 6,000 volumes; (c) the Northern Counties Blind Asylum, North Shields, 5,260 volumes; (d) the Northern Counties Institute, Inverness, 3,800 volumes; (e) the Library of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, 5,500 volumes. Of these five libraries (a) has been handed over to, and its books are now housed and distributed by, the National Library for the Blind, and (e) has become a branch of the same institution.

There are four important libraries of a special educational character, i.e., the books therein are adapted to certain classes of readers, chiefly students. These are (a) the Students' Library, at Oxford; (b) the Library of the Royal Normal College; (c) the Library of the Royal Blind School, West Craigmillar; (d) the Small Library of the Catholic Truth Society, now absorbed by the National Library. These libraries contain about 9,700 volumes.

In addition there are between 60 and 70 minor libraries, which are mainly subsidiary departments of societies for the assistance of the blind and special sections of public libraries.

For the production of books in embossed type there are three printing establishments: the National Institute for the Blind, London; the Royal Blind Asylum, West Craigmillar; and a minor one at the Northern Counties Association, North Shields.

Besides the books obtainable from libraries, the blind are provided with about 20 magazines in embossed type, and with two newspapers, the *Weekly Summary*, and a weekly edition of the *Daily Mail*. It is only fair to add that nearly everything that has been done in this country to enable the blind to have sufficient and suitable literature and facilities for reading, is the result of private enterprise and the generosity of the public. It is felt by many that the time is now ripe for the State to become responsible for, or at least to share, these heavy burdens.

The British Journal of Ophthalmology, Ltd.

The first Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Company was held at the Royal Society of Medicine (by kind

permission of the Council of the Society) on Wednesday, December 12, at 5.30 p.m., when the Report of the Directors, and the audited accounts for the period from January 1 to September 30, were received and adopted:

In addressing the meeting, the Chairman (Mr. J. B. Lawford) said that the Directors felt well-pleased with the progress of the Company up to date. In their judgment, the financial position was sound, and the out-look encouraging. The list of subscribers already exceeded their expectations, and he thought they were justified in stating that the Journal had been an undoubted success.

In conformity with the Articles of Association, two of the Directors, Sir Anderson Critchett and Mr. J. Gray Clegg retired from the Board. Messrs. J. Herbert Parsons and W. G. Laws were elected to the vacancies so created.

ABSTRACTS

I.—THE LAMINA CRIBROSA

Fuchs, Ernst (Vienna).—On the lamina cribrosa. (Ueber die Lamina cribrosa.) *Arch. f. Ophthalm.*, Vol. XCI, Part iii, 1916.

Fuchs has been struck by the variety to be observed in the amount of cupping in cases of glaucoma, irrespective of the severity of the disease. Considering that the difference might be largely due to variations in the anatomy of the lamina cribrosa, he set to work to make a thorough examination of this structure in normal and pathological conditions, and has published the results in this paper.

It is almost impossible to do justice to such a painstaking and compendious account in the space at our disposal, and without reproducing the 48 excellent drawings and microphotographs which go to illustrate it.

The paper is divided into six parts. The first part deals with the clinical observations that led to the investigation. The second and third describe the variations in the anatomy met with in ten normal eyes (removed for recent injury). To differentiate the lamina from the retrolaminar stroma derived from the optic nerve, he refers to the processes of the former as trabeculae ("Balken"), and to the latter as septa ("Septen"). As the trabeculae reach forward they become gradually more delicate, so that the anterior limit of the lamina is less well defined than the posterior. The anterior thinner part has been considered as