to any substitute, we think that "the case for iridectomy" is somewhat stronger than the author makes it. Then follows an interesting account of the introduction of "the newer operations"—partly quotation from the well-known article by Ballantyne. Lastly, after descriptions of other forms of sclerectomy, we have a lucid account of sclero-corneal trephining, with all the details relating to it. Colonel Elliot's work in this field is known to all.

We have commented on the book chiefly as a critic and a questioner, but that is far from being our whole attitude towards it. It is a work of high value. It represents not only a wealth of clinical experience, but a vast amount of thought and reading. In its pages, and by means of its many references, one can survey the whole subject of glaucoma more thoroughly than has been possible for many years without great labour. Every earnest student of ophthalmology should be grateful to its author.

PRIESTLEY SMITH.

CORRESPONDENCE

ATROPIN IN CATARACT EXTRACTION

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

SIR,—With reference to Mr. Fisher's suggestion that atropin should be instilled into the conjunctival sac previous to cataract extraction, I desire to inform you that it was the practice at the Egyptian Ophthalmic Hospitals for many years, and until recently, to instil atropin into the conjunctival sac of patients on whom extraction with iridectomy had been performed, immediately the operation had been completed and previous to covering the operated on eye. Whether atropin is instilled previous to the section or immediately after the iris toilet obviously makes no difference. This procedure was stopped a year or two ago because it was found that it rendered the liability to adhesion of the periphery of the pillars of the iris to the wound more frequent. The number of extractions of senile cataract performed at these hospitals last year was 477.

It is of interest to note that atropin irritation is practically unknown among Egyptian patients. When it occurs the old dodge of oiling the skin of the eyelids previous to the instillation of the mydriatic will usually prevent this annoying symptom.

Yours, etc.,

A. MACCALLAN.

CAIRO,
February 12, 1918.

OBITUARY

In reference to the sudden death of Dr. D. Sulzer, of Paris, already announced in the March number of this Journal (p. 191), Dr. Victor Morax has been good enough to send the following: Sulzer used jokingly to say that his reason for returning to Paris after his prolonged stay in Java was partly his desire to follow the teachings of Charcot at the Salpêtrière and partly the wish to see that triumph of engineering skill, the Eiffel Tower. Some of the truth conveyed by this paradox agrees with our friend's cast of mind, always alive to new ideas and interested by all that touched mathematics and the engineer's art.

I made Sulzer's acquaintance at the Salpêtrière neurological clinique, at a time when after the patient preliminary anatomico-clinical studies of Vulpian, Charcot, and their pupils nervous syndromes had begun to shape, and when the methods of analysis of the nervous system had acquired their great precision. Examination of the visual apparatus, an indispensable complement to all neurological examination, was confided to Dr. Parinaud, whose works on ocular neurology were widely known. Charcot's Tuesday lectures were then followed by a large number of medical men. Sulzer there found a new environment such as he had never been able to secure in Zurich, where he had spent the first years of his medical studies, or in Strassburg, or in Utrecht. I have preserved the liveliest memory of the marked impression made by my first conversations with Sulzer. He compelled one's sympathy by his need of fathoming every problem with no other aim than that of the satisfaction of a scientific curiosity. He imported into the study and the discussion an animation that agreed well with the youthful appearance of his face. In him was found the energy of the old Swiss, thanks to which he could bend his body and his spirit to all kinds of training. Is it not a proof of unusual energy to take up