

Hysterical Diseases of Warfare. By Lewis R. Yealland, M.D. 
With Preface by E. Farquhar Buzzard, M.D., F.R.C.P., 

The last four years have provided many new experiences in all 
fields of medicine and surgery. In none has the interest been 
greater than in the domain of functional disorders. Every ophthal-
mic surgeon must have met with many cases of disordered visual 
function in which the most careful examination has revealed no trace 
of causative organic lesion, and must have had to face the problem 
of deciding whether he had to deal with a malingerer or a case of 
hysteria. The decision has not always been an easy one, and even 
after the decision had been made in favour of a true functional 
disorder there still has remained the problem of the best methods of 
curing the functional disability. We can most heartily recommend 
Dr. Yealland’s book to everyone who has to deal with these difficult 
cases. It is not usually a commendation of a scientific book to say 
that it reads like a novel, but here is a book full of the most useful 
practical information as to the differential diagnosis and treatment of 
functional disorders of all kinds of which the interest is so great as 
to compel one to go on reading until the last page is reached. 
What we most admire is the infinite patience that Dr. Yealland has 
shown in dealing with these cases. One case alone demanded over 
six hours’ almost continuous treatment, but it is quite obvious that 
unless we are prepared to continue treatment until a cure is affected, 
we are likely to do more harm than good to such cases. Every time 
treatment is tried ineffectually makes the case more intractable. For 
that reason alone, an early diagnosis is essential in functional cases, 
since the longer the patient is under the care of any one doctor, the 
less likely is that particular doctor to effect a cure. In reviewing 
a novel, one should not give away the plot, and in reviewing 
Dr. Yealland’s book one must not cite his best cases. His cases in 
Chapter 3 (Hysterical disorders of vision) illustrate three important 
types: functional amblyopia, functional blepharospasm, and func-
tional spasm of accommodation, and he describes in detail how he 
dealt with these cases. So excellent are his descriptions of his 
methods that we can picture to ourselves the scene as the unfortunate 
patient is gradually forced into doing things which, with the best will 
in the world, he was completely unable to do at the commencement of 
the treatment, and we can realize the simultaneous change in his 
mental attitude from misery to cheerfulness as he realizes the 
recovery of his lost function. We have to thank Dr. Yealland most 
sincerely for giving us this revelation of his methods.

Leslie Paton.

"Between August 8 and November 8, 1916, a survey of representative industries in the City of Buffalo was made by the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness. The study was made at the invitation of a large number of leading citizens of Buffalo, the object being to ascertain the local working conditions and the industrial accident hazards which might be productive of eye injuries. The present publication has grown out of this survey."

From these introductory words one might gather the scope of the enquiry which it is the object of this volume to record, but it would not be possible to anticipate so interesting and instructive an account of the working conditions in a multitude of trades as Mr. Berry has put together. There are statistics in the volume, but they do not dominate it. The object is to place before the reader in the most telling fashion possible the risks to eyesight that are involved in these various occupations if necessary precautions are neglected. A great many operations are described in which the eyes are liable to be wounded, such as chipping, machining, grinding, sand-blasting, rivetting, foundry, and blast-furnace work, mining, quarrying, and so on, in all of which the whole descriptive effort resolves itself into a picturesque argument for the use of goggles, masks, cages, and screens to prevent flying particles from striking the eye of the worker himself or of those near him. There is lavish illustration, largely photographic, of various types of goggle and mask and screen, and photographic reproductions on a small scale of "Safety First," somewhat typically American, posters, and notices to workmen. Several pages are occupied by excerpts from "The Story of Steel," issued by the United States Steel Corporation.

But the actual wounding of eyes by flying splinters is not the only type of injury considered. The Committee concerned itself also with the effect of radiations from intense light and heat sources, including glass-blowers' cataract (quoting considerably from the volume of Verhoeff and Bell, which was reviewed in this Journal in February, 1917), with miners' nystagmus, with poisoning by methyl alcohol, and with the disposal of poisonous fumes in general. Chemical injuries, especially those caused by acids and by caustic
alkali, were also investigated. The last portion of the volume before us deals with industrial lighting in a brief and instructive manner.

It is quite impossible in a review to deal individually with the industrial processes described, or with the advice given how to obtain safety with each. For the greater part the advice is directed towards prophylaxis rather than treatment, but the hints on treatment given in certain cases are distinctly on the right lines, namely, provision for first-aid in every workshop, no amateur removal of foreign bodies, and, for the rest, pack the injured man off to the doctor as soon as possible. One piece of detailed treatment must be mentioned. It concerns burns by caustic soda. Dilute acetic acid is the usual neutralizer, but one company (Hooker Electro-Chemical Company, Niagara Falls) prefers a 1 to 2 per cent. solution of zinc sulphate, bottles of which are distributed in recognized places through the buildings where work with caustic soda is carried on. The aim of the “Safety Director” of this company is to get the caustic neutralized within seconds. The following is the chemical reaction:

\[ \text{ZnSO}_4 + 2\text{NaOH} = \text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 + \text{Zn(OH)}_2 \]

It is stated that the proceedings are painful, which can well be believed considering the lavish manner in which the solution is expected to be used, but the results are said to justify the treatment.

Since, after all, the main purpose of the volume, or at any rate one of its main purposes, is to preach the use of goggles, and again goggles all the time, the reader becomes much impressed with the great goggles question. Here is the last word on the subject:

“Any safety director or manager of a foundry or shop in which safety regulations are enforced can show numerous “exhibits” of goggles which have saved eyes. Within a period of but three months 94 pairs of goggles, each of which presumably saved a man’s sight, were turned in at the works of the American Steel Company. Every pair had been broken by flying steel chips. In another large steel foundry where goggles have been used since 1911, 48 broken pairs were collected in one month’s time from one plant—297 pairs among the several subsidiary foundries within a period of six months. During this entire period not one serious eye accident occurred.” It is hardly astonishing that injuries by ordinary spectacle lenses have been comparatively few as shown by the scantiness of the literature on the subject, when we realize that the wearer of goggles, in a dangerous trade in which the goggles are constantly being broken, so seldom suffers from eye injury from such breakage. Yet the goggles themselves, it must be said, are probably more resistant than ordinary lenses, for one test applied to the glass of which they are made consists in dropping a hardened steel ball, 5/8ths inch in diameter, twenty-one inches
from an electro-magnet directly upon the surface of the glass without permitting the latter to rest on any support or backing other than its own frame. Twenty-five such blows without breaking are expected of the glass.

This volume may be most heartily recommended to all ophthalmic surgeons, not, perhaps, because they will learn much surgery of the eye from it, but because of the interest which must attach to a study of the conditions of work of those who become their patients with eye injury of one kind or another. Of all the numbers published up to date by the Committee, this is the only one for which a charge is made for individual copies, namely, fifty cents.

ERNEST THOMSON.

OBITUARY

With reference to the death of Mr. Couper, which occurred on April 30, 1918, at Falmouth, the following has been contributed by Sir Anderson Critchett:

The recent death of my old friend and teacher, Mr. John Couper, has caused me most sincere regret, and has recalled memories of my earliest experiences at Moorfields Hospital. When I entered there as a student, Mr. Couper and Mr. Soelberg Wells were the two assistant surgeons, the former acting in that capacity to my father, and the latter to Mr., afterwards Sir, William Bowman. In 1872 I was appointed clinical assistant to Couper, thus beginning an invaluable apprenticeship which lasted for seven years, and I soon after had as my companions in that office two dear life-long friends, the late Marcus Gunn and the happily still surviving Stanford Morton.

Ophthalmoscopic work always had a great attraction for Couper, especially the estimation of errors of refraction by the direct method—retinoscopy was then unknown—and in his desire for increased power of dealing with the minutiae of such cases he armed himself with specially constructed ophthalmoscopes which contained numerous lenses. His most favoured implement finally took the shape and proportions of a carpenter’s rule which, following the custom of that workman, he usually carried in his trousers pocket. As he was unable to emulate the example of Sir Boyle Roche’s famous bird and to be in two places at one and the same time, it naturally followed that as soon as he considered his senior clinicals to be capable of dealing with the routine of the out-patients’ department he entrusted them with a large share of that work.

My colleagues and I took full advantage of these golden opportunities, though we sometimes had to drag our reluctant chief from