on my mind after reading the pathological details has been to discourage me from entering the vitreous by puncturing the sclerotic with a needle or a knife, unless it is absolutely necessary. I do not think the questions of payment for a nursing home or missing a few weeks in a child's education period should have any weight in discussing the merits or demerits of any operation. It is entirely a question of which operation is the safest and best for the patient. I do not share Dr. Ballantyne's surprise that the posterior needling operation is not more popular.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM L. HEPBURN.
LONDON,
October 1, 1936.

BIFOCALS

To the Editors of The British Journal of Ophthalmology.

Sirs,—Bifocal lenses, in which no displacement of the object is apparent to the observer upon the visual axis passing from the distance portion into the reading portion, have been produced by J. & R. Fleming for a large number of years. They have been marketed under the name of "Monaxial." They are constructed of one piece of glass of the style termed "solid bifocals," although originally made in a "visible" form, they have been produced in an "invisible" style since 1929.

Yours faithfully,

J. & R. FLEMING, LTD.
A. P. COULDEN.
LONDON,
October 6, 1936.

Mr. Williamson-Noble has asked us to call attention to the fact that at the end of his article he mentioned that a similar lens had already been manufactured—Editors.

OBITUARY

REGINALD THORPE

We regret to record the death of Reginald Thorpe on October 9, 1936, aged 75 years. He was the younger son of the late John Thorpe, Esq., of the Chase, Clapham, and was born in 1861. Thorpe was educated privately and at Trinity College, Dublin, and entered St. George's Hospital in 1883. He suffered much from
eye-strain during his student days and it was not until 1891 that he took the qualification of M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Starting in practice in Balham, Thorpe, after some years, realised that there was an opportunity for him to combine refraction work with general practice.

For many years he was ophthalmic clinical assistant at St. George's Hospital, attending regularly three afternoons a week. During the years 1917-1919 he was visiting ophthalmic surgeon to the Grove Military Hospital, Tooting, and in the latter year he became a member of the Ophthalmological Society. Ten years ago he was elected one of the refraction assistants at Moorfields and severed his connection with St. George's. His other appointments included those of oculist to the L.C.C. school clinic at Wandsworth and hon. ophthalmic surgeon to the Western General Dispensary. Thorpe was a hard worker and, being most conscientious, he achieved a large measure of success.

NOTES

The American Academy of Ophthalmology

SIR JOHN PARSONS has recently visited America as the guest of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology. His address on "Ophthalmology and Research" will be published in this journal.

The Lucien Howe Medal

DURING his visit to New York the Lucien Howe Medal of the American Ophthalmological Society was presented to Sir John Parsons in recognition of his services to ophthalmology.

The previous recipients of the medal have been: Carl Koller, Alexander Duane, Ernst Fuchs, Edward Jackson, Priestley Smith, Theodor Axenfeld, F. H. Verhoeff, C. E. de Schweinitz.

Appointment

Mr. F. W. LAW has been elected Assistant Surgeon to the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital.

Corrigendum

IN connection with the Annual Lectures given under the aegis of the North of England Ophthalmological Society, we are asked to state that the second lecture will be given by Professor Ballantyne at the Manchester Royal Infirmary and not at the University.