of post-graduate work at Utrecht, he became a clinical assistant at Moorfields. He returned to Wales to act as senior resident medical officer to the Cardiff Infirmary, and on the expiration of this appointment started to practise as an ophthalmic surgeon in Cardiff.

Cresswell joined the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom in 1899 and served for a period on the council. Practising, as he did, in a large mining centre, he became a recognised authority on miners' nystagmus and though he did not write much, his opinion was sought and valued over a wide area.

In addition to a large private practice, Cresswell held many hospital appointments, the chief of which was that of ophthalmic surgeon to the Cardiff Infirmary. He was also attached to the Aberdare and Merthyr Hospitals as consultant in eye cases and he was surgeon to the South Wales Institute for the Blind, as well as ophthalmic referee for cases in South Wales and Monmouthshire. He had been at one time hon. secretary to the Cardiff Medical Society and, until he reached the retiring age, he was lecturer in ophthalmology to the Welsh National Medical School.

LIEUT.-COL. R. H. ELLIOT, I.M.S.

Robert Henry Elliot, who died on November 9, had a distinguished career in more ways than in ophthalmology. The son of a Colonel in the Army he was educated at Bedford School and St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He had a brilliant career as a student and qualified M.B., Lond. in 1890, with honours in obstetrics and forensic medicine. In the following year he took the B.S., again with honours. He passed the examinations for the F.R.C.S., Eng. and the D.P.H., Cantab. in 1892, and proceeded M.D., Lond. in 1895. In 1904 he became D.Sc., Edin.

Elliot entered the Indian Medical Service and was Montefiore medallist and scholar in military surgery and Maclean prize-man at Netley in 1892.

His work in India naturally led to a very large experience in operative ophthalmology which resulted in his being Superintendent of the Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras, for ten years, 1904-1914. During this period he was also Professor of Ophthalmology at the Madras Medical College. He became a life member of the Ophthalmological Society in 1902. At the Seventeenth International Congress of Medicine in 1913 he was a reporter on the subject of operations for glaucoma.

On his return to this country he settled at 54, Welbeck Street, and rapidly acquired a very large practice. In 1917, Elliot was Hunterian Professor at the Royal College of Surgeons, and his lectures on "the Indian Operation of Couching for Cataract"
were afterwards published in book form and reviewed in our columns, Vol. 2. He was also Chairman of the Naval and Military Committee of the British Medical Association from 1917 to 1922.

Elliot's work on sclero-corneal trephining for glaucoma brought him many distinctions, including the hon. fellowship and gold medal of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, the hon. membership of the Ophthalmological Societies of Egypt, Detroit, Chicago, Minnesota and the Pacific Coast. He was Ophthalmic Surgeon for a time to the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Tottenham, and hon. Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon to the London Hospital for Tropical Diseases. He was also Vice-President of the Institute of Hygiene, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the British Health Resorts Association. In all these capacities Elliot made his driving force felt and he accomplished much good work.

His literary output was considerable. For many years he was the Madras correspondent of The Ophthalmoscope, and he collaborated in the production of The Ophthalmic Year Book in 1912, 1913, 1924. His book on Sclero-corneal Trephining ran into two editions, as did his Treatise on Glaucoma. Besides these he wrote a handbook on Glaucoma for the General Practitioner, and a manual of Tropical Ophthalmology which was translated into many foreign languages, and a small work on Ophthalmic Nursing.

Upon Elliot's interests outside ophthalmology such as snakes and illusions, this is not the place to enlarge; but his "Myth of the Mystic East" which appeared in 1934, should be remembered. He was a first class amateur conjurer and as Chairman of the Occult Committee of the magic circle he did much investigation of numerous exhibitions of magic. It will be remembered that his conclusion anent the Indian rope trick was that no such trick had ever been performed. On snakes Elliot was a great authority.

Elliot's work on sclero-corneal trephining first appeared in The Ophthalmoscope in December, 1909, as a preliminary report on 50 cases. It led to much discussion with regard to priority and the older members of the profession will probably remember the spate of correspondence on this subject at the time: Freeland Fergus, of Glasgow, had operated by trephining the sclera since early in 1909, had read a paper at the meeting of the British Medical Association in Ireland in that year and had performed his operation at the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress. But beyond the report in the British Medical Journal he had not published anything. Like most beginners in this operation, Freeland Fergus found that he was not always able to place his trephine sufficiently far forwards to tap the anterior chamber. If the iris
did not prolapse he was wont to pass a spatula forwards into the anterior chamber, thus combining a cyclodialysis with his scleral trephining. Elliot was the first to insist on dissecting a short way into the cornea before applying the trephine, and his work has, of course, stood the test of time; the operation has been known by his name all over the world.

The magnificent buildings of the Government Ophthalmic Hospital and School at Madras are a lasting memorial to him.

Mrs. Elliot died eleven years ago and of late Col. Elliot had been in bad health. To his three sons the sympathy of the ophthalmic fraternity will be extended.

**NOTES**

In the Church of Boughton Monchelsea, near Maidstone, is a tombstone to a certain Sarah Tomkin, “who having been blind for twelve years was restored to sight on Oculi Sunday, the third Sunday in Lent, March 19, 1863, aged 74 years.”

The Vicar, the Rev. R. H. Rush, to whose kindness I owe this transcript, tells me that he thinks that the reference “restored to sight” is intended in a spiritual sense and not that the physical blindness was miraculously cured. In view of the recent date I think there is no question that this is the correct view.

Oculi Sunday was the third Sunday in Lent in pre-Reformation times on account of the 15th verse of the 25th Psalm which was used as an antiphon on that day. At the Reformation antiphons ceased to be used. The verse in question runs: “Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord; for He shall pluck my feet out of the net.”

The use of the phrase “Oculi Sunday” so late as the year 1863 is a quaint and interesting survival of past times.

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“**THE International Organization of the Campaign against Trachoma**” was instituted at the XIIIth International Congress of Ophthalmology at Amsterdam in 1929. An Executive Committee for the Organization was elected at a Meeting held at Geneva in 1930 which was attended by 64 delegates from 32 ophthalmological societies.

The objects of the Organization were enunciated in the following terms:

1. To help in the collaboration of the different organizations which combat trachoma.
2. To work in concert with the International Organization of Public Health of the League of Nations.