BOOK NOTICE


The 55th volume of the Transactions contains some 638 pages of matter including lists of the Officers and Councils, Presidents, Members and a local list of members practising at home and abroad; the rules of the Society; the Communications made at the Annual Congress and at the Congresses of the affiliated Societies; the reports of the Council and the Hon. Treasurer, the Balance Sheet and the index.

The Presidential address was delivered by Mr. R. Foster Moore on the subject of radiotherapy for certain intra-ocular disorders.

Among other communications of interest are a discussion on diseases of the blood, a number of papers about retinal detachment, corneal grafting and, at the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress, an excellent cinematograph and clinical demonstration of plastic surgery of the eyelids and conjunctival sac by Sir Harold Gillies.

The Bowman lecture was delivered by Mr. C. H. Usher, his title being "On a few hereditary affections." Mr. Malcolm Hepburn gave the Doyne Memorial lecture on "The rôle played by the pigment and visual fields in the diagnosis of diseases of the fundus."

There are 548 members, 8 honorary members and 25 new members were elected during 1935. The financial affairs of the Society are in a prosperous state.

Abstracts of some of the more important contributions will appear in this journal during the year.

OBITUARY

W. H. WILDER, M.D., of Chicago

Dr. Wilder died on September 24, 1935, at the age of 74. An obituary notice appeared in the December number of the American Journal of Ophthalmology from which the following account is abstracted.

Dr. Wilder was born in Kentucky in December, 1860, of well-known parentage on his father’s and mother’s side, the former being a direct descendant of Edward Wilder who settled in Massachusetts in 1638.
After education at College Hill, Ohio, and Belmont, he graduated B.A. in 1878. Immediately after graduation he was a school teacher for a couple of years, while at the same time he worked at medicine. Wilder matriculated at the Medical College, Ohio, in 1880, and took his M.D. four years later. He put in five years of general practice in Cincinnati and then decided to specialise in ophthalmology. For nearly three years he was in Europe for post-graduate study under Fuchs, Leber, Virchow, Nettleship and Tweedy.

In 1891 Dr. Wilder settled in Chicago and was quickly elected Professor of Ophthalmology at the Rush Medical College. In 1926 he was appointed Emeritus Professor. Besides his professorial post he held numerous clinical appointments and he helped in founding the Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness, of which he was Vice-President. The Dana gold medal was presented to him for his outstanding work on the prevention of blindness in May, 1935.

Dr. Wilder was at one time President of the American Ophthalmological Society; he was Chairman of the Section of Ophthalmology, of the American Medical Association, as well as President of the Chicago Ophthalmological Society and of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Oto-laryngology.

The keynote of Wilder's character and work was conscientiousness, and it is interesting now to recall how Nettleship's opinion of him as "a most painstaking and conscientious worker" was fulfilled. It was the same in whatever he undertook, whether in ophthalmology, business affairs or social engagements, and the same care was evidenced in all that he wrote.

His death is a severe blow to ophthalmology and much sympathy will be extended to his widow, children and grandchildren.

ADOLPH BARKAN, M.D.

In the same issue of the American Journal of Ophthalmology is found the notice of the death, on August 28, 1935, of the veteran Adolph Barkan at the age of 90.

Dr. Barkan was born in 1844 and settled in America when he was 23 years old. After a year in Baltimore he moved to San Francisco where he spent the rest of his life. From the start he was a leader in ophthalmology in the Far West, and he served the city of his adoption nobly as teacher and surgeon at Stanford Medical College, where he eventually became Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology.

His library comprised many items of ophthalmology and medical history and he presented it to the Lane medical library with an endowment to ensure its being kept up to date. He was also a great musician.