The Editorial Committee think that our readers will be interested to be reminded that with this number the British Journal of Ophthalmology celebrates its 21st birthday, a matter for congratulation, retrospection and anticipation. As is well known to the older members of the ophthalmological fraternity, we took our rise in 1916 by the formation of a limited company which took over the three journals existing at that date. These comprised, in order of seniority, The Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital Reports, The Ophthalmic Review and The Ophthalmoscope. Together, they form a splendid heritage for the Journal. Much of the spade work in founding our Journal was done by the late Mr. Walter Jessop, and our first number appeared on January 1, 1917.

The object of the new venture was to further the progress of ophthalmology; and that this object has hitherto been attained is evidenced not only by the monthly numbers, but also by the three books and seven monograph supplements which have been issued. The financial details of the foundation of the British Journal of Ophthalmology, Ltd., were firmly established by Messrs. J. B. Lawford and Leslie Paton, and the financial management was continued under the auspices of Messrs. Ernest Clarke and Harold Levy. The control of the subject matter has been under the care of the Editorial Committee, under the Chairmanship first of Mr. Lawford and subsequently of Sir John Parsons. The chief burden of responsibility has, however, fallen upon the editors, and the committee wish to express their high appreciation of their work. Mr. Sydney Stephenson and Mr. Erskine Henderson carried out their duty admirably for seven years and on the death of the former Mr. R. R. James joined Mr. Erskine Henderson as an editor. On the death of the latter in 1929, Mr. R. R. James became senior editor. All those responsible for the control of the Journal and all its readers owe a very great debt to Mr. James for his unremitting zeal and for his enthusiasm in reaching and maintaining a high standard in the conduct of the Journal. He has of recent years been ably assisted by Messrs. Williamson-Noble and H. B. Stallard.

The production of such a journal involves much laborious routine work in the correcting of proofs, and so on. The editors have been generously aided in these respects during nineteen years by Dr. Ernest Thomson of Stirling, to whom the committee take this opportunity of tendering their thanks, nor should the devoted
labours of the manager, Mrs. Kelf, over the whole period of existence of the Journal, be overlooked. Lastly, the printing and publication have been in the hands of Messrs. George Pulman and Sons, to whom the management are indebted for the meticulous efficiency and punctuality with which they have carried out the work.

So much for the past. What of the future? We feel that the prospects are good; and we end by expressing the hope that when The British Journal of Ophthalmology celebrates its Jubilee it may be as healthy, both scientifically and financially, as it is at present.

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ABSTRACTS

I.—MEDICAL OPHTHALMOLOGY


(1) Cox's paper opens with a table giving the differential diagnosis between the congenital and acquired varieties of this condition, the latter being known as spasmus nutans. The main points are that the congenital condition is present at birth, persists throughout life, is binocular and has head movements which appear to compensate for the eye movements. Spasmus nutans, on the other hand, develops after birth usually between the fourth and twelfth months, and disappears about the third year, it may be monocular and the head movements have no relation with those of the eye. The author's case was congenital and beyond lateral movements of the head and eyes and some hypermetropia showed nothing abnormal. There was no consanguinity in the parents but there was a definite family history of the condition, 7 out of 30 known members of the family having the head and eye movements. The distribution of these is shown in a chart which accompanies the article.

F. A. W-N.


(2) Abeles has noticed the presence of medullated nerve fibres of the retina in 9 out of 15 cases of oxycephaly, whereas the incidence of this condition in the general population has been stated to