

ANNOTATION

The Problem of Glaucoma

Professor Emil de Grósz gave the Hunterian lecture* this year before the Hunterian Society. Before considering glaucoma he recalled that in 1892 a special meeting was held in London to discuss a project for erecting a monument by international subscription to that great Hungarian medical pioneer, Semmelweis.

His lecture reviews the problem of glaucoma. His experience is vast for he has operated on thousands of patients with this disease. "Glaucoma takes the first place in the causes of blindness. It causes blindness much more frequently than syphilis, tuberculosis, blennorrhoea or even injuries." The percentage is lower in countries of high culture with well developed public health administration. The percentage in England and Wales is 9 per cent.; in Holland, 13 per cent.; in Switzerland, 14 per cent.; in Germany, 15 per cent.; in Hungary, 17 per cent.; in Bulgaria 19 per cent.; in Greece, 24 per cent.; and in Egypt, 27 per cent. At de Grósz's hospital in Budapest the proportion of out-patients with glaucoma was 1.4 per cent. and 6 per cent. of in-patients were treated for glaucoma. Glaucoma is especially prevalent among the Jews. In 30 years experience at Budapest 12 per cent. were Jews forming 28 per cent. of the glaucoma patients. During his 30 years directorship of the clinic 5,000 operations were performed. Iridectomy, 2,773; trephining, 755; iridosclerectomy, 168; cyclodialysis, 1,006; anterior sclerectomy, 215; iridencleisis, 10.

The lecture by one of the world's doyens of ophthalmology is of great interest; it would certainly have pleased John Hunter had he been alive to hear it and we hope it will be widely read.

OXFORD OPHTHALMOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The Congress gathered at Keble College on July 5 and on July 6 Mr. Percival Hay (Sheffield) was installed as Master.

The Doyne Memorial Lecture was delivered by Mr. F. A. Williamson-Noble on "The ocular consequences of certain chiasmal lesions."

In the discussion on "orthoptic training" the treatment of heterophoria by this means was critically reviewed. Some emphasized the immense service that this treatment afforded in removing headaches, strains and potential neuroses whilst others maintained that relief from such symptoms could be afforded by a careful

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