

Chicago and his name is coupled on the title page with that of Reuel W. Bennett, Photographer for the Division of Ophthalmology in Chicago.

Not all diseases found in the fundus are illustrated, but those chosen show all important congenital anomalies and fundus diseases. The photos are in black and white and are printed on photographic paper. Dr. Bothman holds that what is lost by the absence of colour is more than compensated for by accuracy and depth perception. They were taken with the reflex free Nordenson Fundus Camera and were magnified three or more times the size of the original negative with a special stereoscopic enlarger devised by Reuel W. Bennett. The results approximate the fundus picture seen with the red-free light.

The photos are mounted at the bottom of stout cards measuring  $9 \times 7$  ins., the upper part of each card contains details of the history and examination, together with very full description of the condition shown.

The results maintain a high level of excellence throughout; the pictures of glaucoma cupping and congenital posterior staphyloma certainly bear out the author's contention as to depth perception.

In this country we are, of course, more used to fundus atlases in colour, but no one can examine these pictures of Dr. Bothman without recognizing their excellence and faithfulness of detail.

The atlas is procurable in England from H. K. Lewis & Co. and we are kindly informed by them that the English price is £5 10s.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

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*To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.*

DEAR SIRS, — I shall feel much obliged if you would kindly put in an enquiry in your valuable Journal to know from your numerous readers the following:—In your practice of refraction which of the following conditions you find is more common:

1. Plus cylinder axis  $180^\circ$  or plus cylinder axis  $90^\circ$ .
2. Minus cylinder axis  $90^\circ$  or minus cylinder axis  $180^\circ$ .

In almost all the test-books it is mentioned that plus cylinder axis  $90^\circ$  or minus cylinder axis  $180^\circ$  are more common.

In my practice in Northern India I find that the reverse condition is more common, that is, plus cylinder axis  $180^\circ$  and minus cylinder  $90^\circ$ .

On hearing from you I shall be glad to send you my statistics and my paper on this subject for publication. The paper will be of

interest in case the observations in England are not in conformity with those of mine. In case the observations in England happen to conform we shall have to find reasons for the statements in the text-books.

Yours truly,

RAM KISHAN HANDA.

MASSY GATE, RAWALPINDI.

January 19, 1940.

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## OBITUARY

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### R. J. LYTHGOE

The untimely death of R. J. Lythgoe is a tragedy not only to his relations and friends, but also to science. The experimental study of the special senses has been grievously neglected in England both by physiologists and psychologists. Until comparatively recently our knowledge of visual phenomena under different conditions of illumination, etc., was advanced mostly by physicists, generally inspired by practical problems of artificial lighting, and often vitiated by ignorance of the extremely complicated anatomical and physiological facts which determine the neural and psychological responses. Lythgoe took up these problems at the outset of his work as a Beit Research Fellow. That he was able to devote himself unremittingly to them to the end of his life is due to the encouragement he received from the Medical Research Council, and the permanency of tenure of his post under their aegis. His paper on "The adaptation of the eye: its relation to the critical frequency of flicker" in 1929, embodying the results of experiments conducted with the help of his future wife, Miss K. Tansley, revealed new facts in a domain already thoroughly exploited by physicists—facts heartily accepted by them owing to the care and accuracy of his physical measurements. The same accuracy and originality were displayed in his paper on "The measurement of visual acuity," also published in the Special Report Series of the Medical Research Council, in 1932. Both these papers mark new stages in the history of the scientific investigation of visual capacity. During the last few years Lythgoe has been engaged in collaboration with Goodeve and others in an exhaustive investigation of the physical and chemical properties of visual purple and its decomposition products under the influence of light. These researches have been published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* and the *Journal of Physiology*. They too reveal a stride forward in our knowledge.