- (9) **Mattsson, R. (Helsingfors).**—**Three cases of transitory myopia. (Drei Fälle transitorischer Myopie).** *Acta Ophthalmol.*, Vol. XVII, p. 314, 1939.

(9) **Mattsson** reports three cases of transitory myopia observed after the administration of sulphanilamide. In all cases the doses used were small and the condition is regarded by the author as lenticular in origin and allergic in character. On reviewing the literature, the author recalls that in addition to the transitory myopia well recognised in diabetes, cases have been reported in such dehydrating processes as diarrhoea, and also perspiration during the course of various acute infections. It has also been observed following infection of the arsphenamides.

ARNOLD SORSBY.

BOOK NOTICE

Aids to Ophthalmology. By N. BISHOP HARMAN and P. MCG. MOFFATT. 9th Edition. Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1940. Price 4/6.

The ninth edition of this well known member of the "Aids" series does not differ to any marked extent from earlier editions, but the text has been thoroughly revised by Mr. Moffatt. The chief alterations are that the type used is larger than in previous editions and a short chapter on war injuries has been added. Some of the old illustrations have been redrawn and some new ones added. There is a useful compendium of the visual standards in the various services.

We have always felt that this particular member of the series was one of the best. The fact that it has reached its ninth edition is proof that students find it useful and it is a thoroughly reliable guide on the main subjects of ophthalmology.

CORRESPONDENCE

OPHTHALMIC EYE LITHOTRITE FOR REMOVAL OF NON-MAGNETIC INTRA-OCULAR FOREIGN BODIES

To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

DEAR SIRs,—Can any one tell me where I can obtain such an instrument?

Amongst my father's instruments, this is the one I valued most, and I found it invaluable for removing glass or other non-magnetic foreign bodies from the eye.

I understand it was made specially for him.

Owing to being called up at short notice my own is in such a safe place I cannot find it. It consists of an ivory handle about three inches long containing a delicate spring controlled by a button lever, and the forceps portion extends to about one inch. The teeth open about an eighth of an inch when the spring is released. To insert the forceps, which are very fine and delicate as no crushing is required, the teeth are closed by pressing the lever with the forefinger, then they are opened by releasing the lever and closed firmly on the foreign body to hold it and withdraw it.

In view of the large numbers of intra-ocular foreign bodies in wartime, and my colleague Mr. L. H. Savin tells me many are a compound of magnesium and aluminium, I thought this instrument would be of interest to your readers—also I want to replace my own.

Yours faithfully,

J. MYLES BICKERTON,

Wing-Comdr.

OWLS OAK, DENHAM, BUCKS.

June 24, 1930.

MUSTARD GAS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

SIRS,—With reference to the letter in your last issue from Sir James Barrett concerning Mustard Gas and its implications, we feel compelled to record a preliminary word of dissent, though at the moment it is not possible to amplify this.

Sir James' statements in his first paragraph are likely to convey a wrong impression because his analogy is false. It is illogical to compare the action of a substance causing local caustic damage, with that of one which requires absorption, and which acts at a distance from its site of application. Further, there are other, and more effective, methods of preventing the action of a substance instilled into the conjunctival sac than that of washing it out.

For the past few months we have been engaged in animal experimentation to investigate the efficacy of a new substance designed specifically for the purpose of combating the effects of mustard gas on the eye and elsewhere. Our results, on the eve of publication, have proved to our satisfaction that this is a substance whose immediate application is effective in oxidising, and thus neutralising the action of, mustard gas in the eye of the rabbit; it is, moreover, harmless to the human cornea, and we predict with