

BOOK NOTICES

The One-eyed Victims of War. Surgical and Plastic Prothesis.
(*Les Borgnes de la Guerre. Prothèse Chirurgicale et
Plastique.*) By Dr. G. VALOIS. Paris : Masson & Co., 1918.

Statistics already published show that the percentage of severe ocular wounds has been much higher in this war than in previous conflicts. One of the results has been the publication, especially by French surgeons, of a large number of papers dealing with wounds of the eye and orbit, particularly in reference to the attainment of satisfactory cosmetic results in cases in which the eyeball and often part of the orbital tissues have been destroyed.

The volume before us gives a comprehensive survey of the subject based upon the experience of Valois and his colleagues at the XIII Ophthalmic Centre, and of the surgeons at other centres. It contains much that is of interest, much that is of practical importance, and should prove a valuable help to those who are called upon to repair the damage caused by extensive wounds of the eye and orbit. It contains a number of coloured drawings which are really helpful, but the majority of the illustrations in the text are of little value.

After some remarks on "the ocular prothesis of war," in which the necessity for intelligent collaboration of the surgeon and the prothesist is emphasized, the author devotes a chapter of 56 pages to the consideration of the damaged orbit in all or nearly all the varied forms resulting from war wounds. Too much space would be required to epitomize ever so briefly this chapter; suffice it to say here that it is an excellent and detailed description of the surgical means adopted with a view of maintaining or restoring an orbital cavity sufficient and suitable for an artificial eye. It deals with cases for immediate, secondary, and late interference. The author emphasizes the value of early operation, wherever possible, and recommends the employment of a provisional olive-shaped prothesis, made of polished vulcanite, round which cicatrization may proceed. The use of grafts, conjunctival, epidermal, and cutaneous, with and without pedicles, for the restoration of destroyed and distorted lids, or for enlarging or creating an orbital cavity, is dealt with at some length and the technique is fully described.

Chapter 2 of 47 pages on "The support of the prothesis" is perhaps the most interesting as it deals with the methods, now rather numerous, of providing the best possible stump for the artificial eye.

The older operations (abscission, evisceration, Mules's operation, &c.) are described. Following these the more recent methods of grafting new tissue in the orbit are considered at greater length.

The war has given ample opportunity for a thorough trial of these procedures, and most of the French writers are well satisfied with the results obtained. These methods include the implantation of fat, or skin and fat, of a portion of costal cartilage and of a graft consisting of the posterior portion of the sclera. The employment of a graft of living cartilage has failed occasionally in consequence of the cavity not being completely aseptic. In such cases the use of inert cartilage is recommended; this consists of a portion of costal cartilage from a calf hardened for a week in 20 per cent. solution of formalin, and then placed in sterilized water, in which it remains until used. Hardening in formalin renders these grafts immune to attack by pyogenic organisms and phagocytes. The employment of a scleral graft when possible has much to recommend it; full details and diagrams of the technique of this procedure are given.

Chapter 3 deals very fully with the "Adaptation of the artificial eye." French surgeons and makers of artificial eyes have given much care and attention to this, and to a greater extent than obtains in this country they gain information as to the size and shape of the conjunctival cavity by the use of moulds. These are obtained by the employment of liquid paraffin which solidifies at body temperature. From the mould thus obtained a cast can be made and on this the artificial eye is modelled.

The fourth chapter headed "Prothèse postiche orbitopalpébrale" contains an account of various forms of prosthesis for cases in which no cavity exists in which an artificial eye can be fitted. The technique (advocated by Coulomb) is somewhat complicated and tedious, but the cosmetic results judging by an illustration are fairly satisfactory.

In the last chapter Surgeon-Major Descloux gives an account of the arrangements and regulations concerning the provision of apparatus to mutilated soldiers, in force in the French Army. These regulations have been framed in a very liberal spirit.

J. B. LAWFORD.

Ocular Nystagmus. (Nistagmo ocular.) By DAMENO. Libreria Las Ciencias: Casa Editora de A. Guidi Buffarini, Cordoba, Buenos Ayres. 1917.

This book consists of the thesis presented by the author to the Faculty of Scientific Medicine in the National University of Buenos Ayres for the degree of M.D. The subject is comprehensively discussed under the following headings: Congenital Nystagmus, Nystagmus and Spasmus Nutans, Miners' Nystagmus, Secondary Nystagmus, Voluntary Nystagmus, Nystagmus in Diseases of the Nervous System, Myoclonic Nystagmus, Nystagmus in Cerebral Tumour Cases, Vestibular Nystagmus, and, finally, the pathology of

the condition. Where possible the author has illustrated his remarks by appending notes of cases, and under the heading of Miners' Nystagmus, the prognosis and treatment are shortly discussed. The whole forms an excellent summary of our present knowledge of the disease.

R. R. JAMES.

The Errors of Accommodation and Refraction of the Eye, and their Treatment. By ERNEST CLARKE, M.D., F.R.C.S. Fourth Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. Price 6s. 1918.

We are glad to see that in this edition of his popular handbook, Mr. Ernest Clarke advocates the use of the electric ophthalmoscope. The modern pattern, with the Marple mirror and the battery in the handle, makes it an ideal instrument for the practice of direct ophthalmoscopy in all circumstances. The book contains as clear an account of the theory and practice of retinoscopy as we have seen anywhere, but the author considers that this is not such a delicate test for astigmatism as the ophthalmometer. As we were led to expect from his previous writings, there is an interesting chapter on eye strain. The section on Optics might have been somewhat extended. It is unfortunate that the usefulness of the diagrams, which are otherwise excellent, should have been impaired by indistinct lettering. Evidently the author himself has found some difficulty in this direction, as the description in the text does not at all times correspond with the diagrams. The book concludes with a chapter on the Vision Tests for the Services.

T. S. A. ORR.

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of Nottidge Charles Macnamara at his residence at Chorley Wood, Hertfordshire, on November 21, at the advanced age of 86 years. His name was widely known both in general surgery and in ophthalmology. After qualification in 1854, he became assistant surgeon in the Indian Medical Service, and two years later surgeon. He was appointed professor of ophthalmic surgery in Calcutta, and founded the Mayo Hospital in that city, of which he was the first surgeon-superintendent. He served in the Bengal Medical Service as surgeon-major on the staff in the Sounthal rebellion (1855-56) and of the Tirhoot Volunteers in the Mutiny. Whilst in India he published "Diseases of the Eye," of which a fifth edition appeared in 1891, and "Lectures on Diseases of Bones and Joints," of which a third edition was published in 1887. From 1871 to 1873 he edited the *Indian Medical Gazette*. In 1874 Macnamara retired and came to London, where he was