THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

"The contention that persons who fail to pass an indoor test of colour vision may nevertheless be relied upon to distinguish accurately the colours of the lights which they meet with in the ordinary course of their duties at sea has been met by the results of the experiments conducted by the Committee at Shoeburyness." These are two of the comments on this point by the Departmental Committee of the Board of Trade on Sight Tests (Cd. 6256, p. 13, 1912). The Committee made exhaustive experiments at Shoeburyness, and, indeed, it was due to a demonstration carried out there in the presence of Mr. John Burns, then President of the Board of Trade, that both masters and men were convinced of the efficacy of the Board of Trade lantern. As, however, a national eyesight test has been agreed to, the interests of both the travelling public and the men will be safeguarded, and further comment is unnecessary.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. HERBERT PARSONS.

54, QUEEN ANNE STREET, W.1, July 21.

THE OXFORD OPHTHALMOLOGICAL CONGRESS, 1919

The Tenth Annual Meeting of the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress was held on July 10th and 11th last in beautiful weather. Members were lodged in Keble College and the scientific proceedings took place in the Department of Human Anatomy of the University (kindly lent for the purpose by Professor Arthur Thomson), where technical and commercial museums were also arranged. The programme was opened on July 10th by an address of welcome by the Master, Major Walter H. Kiep, R.A.M.C., read a paper on the ocular complications of dysentery, which was followed by a good discussion on the subject. Major Edgar H. Smith, R.A.M.C., read a communication dealing with "Quinine Amaurosis," well discussed by the members present. Dr. William McLean, of New York, described his further experimental studies in intra-ocular pressure and tonometry, and exhibited his latest model tonometer. We hope to publish his paper in these columns shortly. The event of the meeting was a discussion on "Preventive Ophthalmology," introduced by Colonel J. Herbert Parsons, C.B.E., consulting ophthalmic surgeon to the Forces. Colonel Parsons pointed out that the scope of his subject dealt with the prevention of damage (a) to the individual, and (b) to others. (a) included many subjects, such as prevention of damage to the eyes from accidents, defective illumination, deleterious rays, and organisms, and the prevention of damage to health from headache, accident, fatigue, etc. (b) included regulations for the prevention of the transference of contagious disease and rules for Navy, Army, Air Force, Mercantile Marine, Railways, Motor Industry, Cinemas, and so forth. The problems of preventive ophthalmology constituted a question of collective
action, and were of particular value at the moment, when projects of reconstruction were to the fore. In connection with the prevention of accidents to the eyes in factories, there is urgent need of a scale of awards for compensation founded upon scientific principles. The formulation of regulations for the Public Services demanded (1) a widening of the basis of education of ophthalmologists; (2) co-operation between ophthalmologists and other experts; and (3) improvement in the methods of examination of candidates and the selection of examiners. A good discussion followed the address, after which the Doyne Memorial Medal was presented to Colonel Parsons by the Deputy Master, Mr. Philip H. Adams. In the afternoon members and their friends were entertained to tea in the gardens of Trinity College by Mr. D. N. Nagel, M.A., and Miss Nagel. In the evening the annual dinner of the Congress was held in the hall of Keble College, some seventy members and visitors being present. The toast list was commendably brief.

After dinner the annual general meeting of the Congress was held in the junior common room at Keble College. Among other things it was determined, on the motion of Mr. J. B. Story, to make representations to the General Medical Council in support of those recently preferred to that body by the Council of British Ophthalmologists concerning the instruction and examination of medical students in eye work. Readers of this Journal are aware that the recommendations in question have been rejected by the General Medical Council.

On July 11th the proceedings began with a paper by Dr. S. Lewis Ziegler, of Philadelphia, on "The Problem of the Artificial Pupil; Knife-Needle versus Scissors." Dr. P. Baillart, of Paris, followed with a communication dealing with his dynamometer for determining the blood pressure in the branches of the central retinal artery. Mr. A. F. MacCallan, O.B.E. (Cairo), read a paper on the "Seasonal Variations of Acute Conjunctivitis in Egypt." Colonel A. H. Tubby, C.B., entered a suggestive plea for investigation as to any possible connection between skeletal asymmetry, on the one hand, and defects of the eye, on the other. A pathetic feature followed when a discussion upon employment for the blind was introduced by three blind speakers, namely, Mrs. Adolphus Duncombe, Captain Peirson Webber, and Captain Towse, V.C. The subject was discussed most sympathetically by the meeting, and it is to be hoped that some useful action will be undertaken by the Congress in connection therewith. In the afternoon the Ashhurst War Hospital, at Littlemore, near Oxford, was thrown open to members by Lieut.-Col. T. S. Good, R.A.M.C.