ways, and man of his own nature learned to thread the labyrinthine maze" (W. Russell Brain*). At the hands of his pupil Granit, the processes of excitation, facilitation, inhibition, and so on, demonstrated by Sherrington in the spinal cord, have been shown to regulate impulses in the retina and optic nerve. This isolated mass of brain, with its equally isolated intra-cerebral pathway, the optic nerve and optic tract, are thus shown to be a specially favourable locus for future experimentation. And so Sherrington has been led on from "The Integrative Action of the Nervous System" to the profound philosophical conception of the relationship of body and mind contained in "Man on his Nature."

Great then are Sherrington's scientific claims to greatness—claims which, as has been pointed out, justify comparison with Harvey, marking an epoch in biology. And those who have had the privilege of knowing Sherrington, the man, realize that his meticulous scientific integrity is combined with an endearing kindliness, and a modesty without which no man is truly great.

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**FACULTY OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

**Report of Council Meeting**

**on October 10**

The Honorary Secretary drew attention to the very brief report of the Faculty's activities that had appeared in the British Medical Journal and the Lancet, as compared with that in the British Journal of Ophthalmology. It was agreed that the Honorary Secretary should ask the British Medical Journal and the Lancet to realise that the report was already cut to a minimum and to ask for it to be printed as submitted.

The Faculty had asked the British Medical Association to confirm the statement that compensation would be given for consultant practices and a reply has been received that the buying and selling of consultant practices in general was not prohibited by the National Health Service Act and for this reason the compensation provisions of the Act did not extend beyond the cases of general practitioners whose names were entered "on the appointed day on any list of medical practitioners undertaking to provide general medical services."

It was reported that the Medico-Political Standing Committee had submitted a Memorandum to the Evidence Committee, sitting under the Chairmanship of the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, on the remuneration of consultants and specialists.

* *Lancet, November, 22, 1947.*
With reference to orthoptic matters, it was reported that the Local Authorities would not accept a salary scale for orthoptists approved by the Faculty or any other professional body, but asked for a properly negotiated scale between employers and employees. It was, however, noted that the Joint Negotiating Committee’s salary scale was acceptable to the Faculty and therefore it was decided to take no further action.

The question of standards of vision for orthoptic students was reviewed and the following resolution adopted:

“Visual acuity should be 6/9 corrected in each eye, with full binocular vision. It is undesirable to have more than 7 D. refractive error in any meridian, but such cases could be accepted at the discretion of an ophthalmic surgeon.”

A letter had been received from the Ministry of Education requesting the Faculty’s opinion on plastic lenses for school children. It was decided that, in view of the present state of development of plastic lenses, particularly their softness and their liability to scratch, the Council did not consider that they were a practical proposition for universal use at the moment.

Following correspondence with a Joint Committee set up by the B.M.A. and the Pharmaceutical Society to compile a National Formulary suitable for use in connection with the National Health Service, the Faculty nominated three representatives to serve on a Sub-Committee to consider the draft section of the Formulary concerning ophthalmology.

The attention of the Faculty Council was called to the fees for School Ophthalmic Work from two sources. In view of the fact that the scale of fees for all Local Authority work had been negotiated by the B.M.A. for all consultant and specialist work, it was decided that no further action could be taken at the moment.

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BOOK NOTICE


This edition is larger than its predecessor. It gives a general account of the history and principles of contact lens work and a detailed description of the fitting methods practiced by the author. The indications for the use of contact lenses are fully described, applied anatomy, physiology, and optics are discussed, and a short chapter is devoted to the properties of plastics. The detailed description of technique applies to the author’s All Plastic moulded