BOOK REVIEWS


This manual of ophthalmic surgery is an old friend and needs no introduction. Since it first appeared in 1918 it has gained a world-wide public and for very good reasons. First, the author, a teacher of wide experience, described only those operations which he himself had tried and found good, and secondly, knowing the difficulties which the beginner would encounter he told in great detail how these were to be avoided, the various stages of the procedures being illustrated by excellent pictures.

In the preface to the fifth edition Professor Meller, having passed his seventieth birthday, said goodbye to his readers, and although he has written the preface to this sixth edition, the actual revision had been undertaken by Dr. Böck, one of his assistants, who follows closely in the steps of his master. Many of the procedures inevitably differ from those practised in the United Kingdom. The work has been brought up-to-date by accounts of the newer operations, such as keratoplasty, scleral resection, Stallard's method of treating retinoblastoma with radium.

Taken all in all, this is a very good book, and although the difficulty of language will prevent a great many from deriving all the benefit which it contains, it remains one of the best text-books on the surgery of the eye.


Those who know the previous editions of this book will be glad to learn that a third has now appeared. In this most recent edition the general plan and arrangement have been changed very little, but the book itself has been expanded and new illustrations added. The more important new material includes such conditions as retrolental fibroplasia, Harada's disease, Behçet's syndrome, Sjögren's syndrome, malignant exophthalmos, scrub typhus, pseudoxanthoma elasticum, and the ocular effects of maternal rubella, and there is also a section on psychosomatic disorders. The bibliographies have been brought up to date and the new edition, which maintains the excellence of its predecessors, is a valuable adjunct to ophthalmic literature.

Reviewed in Ophthalmic Literature
