BOOK REVIEWS


An event of considerable ophthalmological importance is the appearance of Arruga's "Ocular Surgery", translated from the third Spanish edition into English. It will be remembered that the first edition of this magnificent work appeared in 1946, and the second, translated into French by Blum of Geneva, in 1950; the present volume appears in English, having been translated by Michael Hogan and Luis Chaparro.

This unique text-book is now so well known as not to require a detailed description. It is sufficient to say that it covers the whole of ophthalmic surgery, the text comprising descriptions of the techniques used by Arruga himself, supplemented by the more important procedures and modifications appearing in the literature and used by other surgeons. In this present volume recent advances in ocular surgery have been fully noted, but the character of the main text, with its carefully outlined and full descriptions of operative procedures, its authoritative recommendations, its clear and informative writing, and its multitude of excellent illustrations, remains unaltered. Among text-books of ophthalmic surgery it is surely unique, and the English-speaking world is indeed indebted to Arruga and his translators for giving it the benefit of the author's wide practical experience and ripe judgment.


This is a long book made up of large, closely-printed pages, and at first glance one might be tempted to think it too long. But Professor Bonnet is a teacher of long standing and his clinical descriptions are invaluable and indeed could not be bettered.

The book has been written for medical students and physicians as well as for those specializing in ophthalmology. The author has thus emphasized the general clinical significance of the ocular symptoms and signs and has fitted ophthalmology into its niche in general medicine.

No attempt is made to describe operative procedures, for which the author says special treatises ought to be consulted.

If we were pressed for criticism we would say that although in general the illustrations are good there are quite a number which are not up to the standard of the text. The book is, however, a distinct contribution to ophthalmic literature, and we ought to be grateful to the author for having written it.


This short handbook glides over the subject of refraction lightly but authoritatively. There is no pretence of discussing the underlying optical theory; there are no forbidding diagrams; everything is simplified, and the practice of refraction explained and its implications discussed in a pleasant and interesting way, but, at the same time, with much common sense. The book will hardly be sufficient for the beginner; its greatest value will be in disillusioning the prejudiced practitioner.

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