On the basis of a series of seventeen cases it is concluded that diathermic coagulation is a satisfactory method of treating malignant melanomata provided the tumour is less than 8 disc diameters and is not situated near the optic disc. Of seven patients with a history of more than 10 years who were treated in this way, one has died of carcinoma of the prostate; of five patients treated between 1943 and 48 (5 to 10 years' history) one had died of acute rheumatism; all the patients treated since 1948 are alive. In no case was a renewal of intra-ocular growth observed. The fact that the mortality after this treatment (in this small series) is significantly less than after excision is striking, and raises questions (which cannot be answered) whether the dissemination of the break-down products of the coagulated neoplasm may perhaps inhibit metastases. Three cases of melanomata of the choroid suspected of malignancy were also treated, and no further growth resulted.

With retinoblastoma, the results were less favourable. Of sixteen patients thus treated, only two have retained an eye with reasonable visual acuity, and both of these had treatment by x rays in addition. It is concluded that irradiation is the better method of therapy. On the other hand, five cases of angiomatosis of the retina responded well to diathermic coagulation; in early cases local cure can be obtained, in advanced cases, improvement.

This is a carefully executed and unbiased monograph which well repays study.


The author describes the clinical picture of long-term diabetes and includes an analysis of the nature of long-term diabetic complications. The book contains the results of an extensive and painstaking follow-up of diabetics in a Danish urban municipality and includes a review of the relevant literature. While the general analyses and the detailed data contained in the various Tables are comprehensive, they are somewhat involved and in some cases complex. The use of unattractive terms, (i.e. "phlebopathy", "pigmentopathy", and "sanguinolent spots"), detracts from the literary standard of the book.

It is regrettable that, in the section dealing with diseases of the eye, more detailed and comprehensive descriptions are not given of the retinal changes observed by the author and the variability of the retinal picture.

The general views expressed in this publication are not controversial, but the statement that venous changes (phlebopathy) must be considered as belonging chiefly to juvenile diabetic retinopathy will not be subscribed to by many readers.

The work adds little that is new to the existing literature, but it gives an overall picture of the long term diabetic syndrome which is most probably representative of the diabetic population as a whole. The book is well printed but the few illustrations are poor.


This monograph, brought out as a compliment to Wagenmann on his ninetieth birthday, is a summary of Ohm's work on optokinetische nystagmus, particularly its application to the objective testing of visual acuity. Ohm has worked on this problem for almost a quarter of a century and his many elaborate contributions to our knowledge of this and kindred subjects are well known to readers of German ophthalmological literature. It is well known (as was first recorded by Purkinje) that when successive moving objects traverse the visual field and excite attention, the eyes follow one object in a slow movement towards the periphery and then jerk back quickly when they are attracted by its successor. When the objects are vertical stripes on a rotating drum, the resolving power of the eye can be assessed by determining the lower limit of the visual angle subtended by the stripes which will excite attention. Moreover, since the response is an automatic reflex, its presence provides a test of the visual acuity in non-co-operative people, in malingers, in