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.

**Long-Term Diabetes.** By Knud Lundbaek (Ophthalmological Section written in collaboration with V. A. Jensen). 1953. Pp. 197, 33 figs, 22 tables, bibl. Ejnar Munksgaard, Copenhagen. (D.Cr. 32s.).

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 optocinetic 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 malingerers, in
young children, and even in animals. It is obvious that the method is of wide application and considerable usefulness. The present monograph gives a detailed account of its value, particularly in patients with central nervous disease; and not the least of its interest lies in its historical interest as a concise summary of the author's classical work and the bearing upon it of the researches of others.

NOTES

FACULTY OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS, STUDY TOURS, 1953

ITALY

Milan.—Here the party was received by Professor Cattaneo, Dr. Morpurgo, and Professor Galliazz. Professor Cattaneo gave a most interesting description of his operation for ptosis, and showed a very good film of the procedure. Mr Jameson Evans showed a film on the removal of intra-ocular foreign bodies, and Mr Dee Shapland one on lamellar scleral resection. Professor Galliazz demonstrated an ingenious operating table which could be adapted for use as a trolley or stretcher, without lifting or moving the patient from one to the other. When operating in a case of retinal detachment, Professor Galliazz used a novel electrode, in the centre of which a small electric light bulb was fitted, while the assistant viewed the fundus by the indirect method at the same time.

Parma.—Professor Bietti, in addition to showing numerous operations and demonstrations of cases, read a paper which dealt with the provocative tests for glaucoma, the effect of anoxia upon the size of the blind spot, and the relationship between increased ocular tension and high-tone deafness. He also described an acrylic implant for the suprachoroidal space following cyclodialysis; a rabbit was shown in which this operation had been performed, and where the acrylic implant had slipped into the anterior chamber. Dr. Grugnolo exhibited an instrument to assist in locating retinal holes.

Florence.—Professor Alajmo and Dr. Esente showed a series of cases, including a number of very interesting lamellar and penetrating grafts. Dr. Esente recommends Davis Geck needles for these operations.

Rome.—Professor Cavara, assisted by Professor Ciotaola and Dr. Bruna, held an operating session, followed by discussions on the lenticular acrylic implant and dacryocystorhinostomy. Dr. d'Ermo gave, in English, a summary of his recent paper Ricapitolazione metodi eletroforetici. The party also visited Professor Leonardi's hospital, where there is a newly built, very commodious and business-like theatre block, which ought to be seen by anyone who is contemplating building a new theatre. The party also watched Professor Leonardi operating, and saw proofs of the second volume of his Operative Surgery.

Naples.—Here the party was met by Professor Lo Cicio and Dr. Elio de Berardinis. The professor, with his well-trained band of assistants, did a very large number of operations, which were greatly appreciated by the visitors, and afterwards showed several cases which had been successfully operated upon for retinal detachment.

NETHERLANDS

Utrecht.—Professor Weve demonstrated many operations at the Donders Eye Hospital, including a series of diathermy treatments of simple detachments of the retina. By means of repeated ophthalmoscopic examination by the indirect method during the operation, the area of choroidal coagulation was reduced to the minimum. The operation was carried out by reference to large-scale, detailed drawings of the fundus which take one and half hours to prepare. Approximately 80 per cent. of replacements were successfully completed; Prof. Weve thinks that his reefing procedure, air inflation of the vitreous, and complete evacuation of intra-retinal fluid, contribute to this excellent record.