

duality of the discovery. (Halberstaedter, L., and Prowazek, S. von (1907). *Arb. Gesundheitsamt., Berl.*, 26, 44, and *Berl. klin. Wschr.*, 47, 661. Prowazek, S. von (1907). *Arch. Protistenk.*, 10, 336 and 358.)

A chapter on the physiopathology of the trachomatous eye has been contributed by Jean Sédan, who has made this subject his own. He remarks that few authors have noted the frequency of increased tension of the glaucomatous eye, among them Cuénod, Nataf, and Bietti. He has forgotten that MacCallan (1921) (Egyptian Ophthalmic Hospitals Report for 1921) found that out of 127,223 new patients examined, 1.77 per cent. exhibited signs of primary glaucoma, and 1.34 per cent. absolute glaucoma.

The difficult question of trachoma prophylaxis in the family, at school, and at work is discussed. "Dès sa naissance, a dit MacCallan, l'enfant de mère trachomateuse est fatalement destiné à contracter la maladie". However, according to the report of the Committee of Experts of W.H.O. (*Rev. int. Trachome*, 29, 275, § 3.1, 1952), "trachoma is to be considered only slightly contagious".

At school adequate prophylaxis may be attained if meticulous precautions are taken; trachoma contracted in the Army, or while at work in a factory, or claimed to be so contracted, or stated to be the result of an accident while at work, has been the cause of numerous legal claims in France.

The book is the same size as the Bulletins of the Société française d'Ophthalmologie. The printing and paper are excellent; the author and the publisher are both to be congratulated.

Selected Studies in Visual Optics. By JOSEPH L. PASCAL. 1952. Pp. 769, 138 illus. Kimpton, London. (95s.)

Pascal's mode of writing, of tackling what appear to be difficult problems in optics and of rendering their solution apparently simple, are well known to readers of this Journal. He is an original thinker who has no objection to, in fact almost an affection for, unconventional methods and these are fully exemplified in the 46 chapters and appendix which go to the making of this book, a work based upon 40 years teaching experience. As stated in the preface, the author does not attempt to cover the whole field of visual and physiological optics, but has merely selected certain topics which he feels need clarification, and these he treats in a way which he hopes will stimulate thought and further research.

A good example of Pascal's method is afforded by his use of the metric unit of curvature of a lens. This unit is the reciprocal of the radius of curvature in metres and its employment in the *Dam* formula simplifies such problems as working out the optical power of the anterior or posterior surface of the cornea, of the crystalline lens in the eye, and of thick lenses generally.

Another useful conception is the accommodative unit, *i.e.* the amount of accommodation in dioptries necessary for focusing an object 1 metre from the eye. In corrected hypermetropes this is greater than unity and in corrected myopes less, a matter which is of some importance in the correction of presbyopia, especially in cases of anisometropia. The author's best-known work is probably that in connection with the use of the cross cylinder and his convincing demonstration of the necessity for keeping the astigmatism mixed during the test. This, needless to say, is gone into in considerable detail in the course of some 33 pages.

That the author has had much experience with students, is shown by the many mnemonics he quotes, and by his wisdom in reserving the treatment of geometrical optics until chapter 35, when it receives full consideration. He also discusses matters other than the purely optical, and touches for example on orthoptics and the Bates system. In the

latter connection, he states from personal experience that Bates was "not anywhere near as rabid about the efficiency of his methods or the degree of his success as some of his successors and followers are".

The last two chapters deal with the extra-ocular muscles and the author's benzene ring schema for illustrating their actions. Though meant as a simplification, this seems to the reviewer to be much more difficult to follow than Duane's conception of primary and secondary actions and the two simple diagrams by which they can be worked out. The book concludes with an appendix containing a useful glossary of terms and symbols, and a full bibliography.

Summing up, this volume is one which literary critics, if they understood it, would describe as "important"; it sheds welcome light on some of the dark corners of ophthalmology and as such will be appreciated by those who teach this subject.

Ophthalmic Pathology, an Atlas and Textbook. By J. S. FRIEDENWALD, H. C. WILDER, A. E. MAUMENEE, T. E. SANDERS, J. E. L. KEYES, M. J. HOGAN, W. C. OWENS and E. U. OWENS. 1952. Pp. 489, 240 plates. Saunders, Philadelphia and London. (90s.)

Most ophthalmologists are well acquainted with the "Atlas of Ophthalmic Pathology", which first appeared in 1938 under the editorship of DeCourcy and Ash and was based on the great mass of material which continually finds its way to the Registry of Ophthalmic Pathology of the Army Medical Museum in Washington. It was an unusually good publication and many students and practitioners of our specialty throughout the world learned much from the superb pathological illustrations it contained. The Registry of Ophthalmic Pathology in Washington—and it is interesting that the ophthalmic branch of the Registry is the oldest of its component parts—contains a wealth of pathological and histological material that is unmatched anywhere in the world. That this should go a-begging would be a tragedy, and it was indeed fortunate that the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology combined with the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology in commissioning a group of ophthalmologists to prepare a more ambitious project than the previous publication. In its new form the volume combines an atlas with a textbook of unusually high standard, the basis of which is Friedenwald's well-known book—"Pathology of the Eye" (now out of print)—which has been brought up to date for the purpose; it deals with the normal anatomy and physiology of the eye, its histology, its growth and senescence, and the general nature and mechanism of inflammation, and then continues in the rest of its 18 chapters to discuss systematically the whole of ocular pathology. The text is illustrated by a multitude of superb histological photographs. The result is a pathological treatise with which nothing in the ophthalmic literature of any country can be compared.

Reviewed in *Ophthalmic Literature*.

Contact Lenses, Clinical and other Observations. By J. M. ANDERSON. 1952. Pp. 40. Courtenay Press, Brighton. (7s. 6d.).

NOTES

MR. T. KEITH LYLE, F.R.C.S., Ophthalmic Surgeon to King's College Hospital, is to be a guest-lecturer at the jubilee celebrations of the Ophthalmological Society of Egypt, Cairo, in February, 1953.

between 1948 and 1952. Incidence, clinical aspects, pathology, aetiology, prophylaxis, and treatment are each considered in turn. An interesting contribution is the use of slit-lamp microscopy by means of which an increased aqueous protein content without increase in cells in the anterior chamber may be observed in the active phase of retrolental fibroplasia. New-vessel formation on the iris is also mentioned, and the notion of anoxia as a causative agent is favoured.

The second section comprises a valuable account of the differential diagnosis of retinoblastoma and retrolental fibroplasia: it is unfortunate that the unhappy term "pseudoglioma" is used in the title of this section of the book (and also frequently in the text) in view of the high standard of thought and observation, clinical and pathological, with which these several conditions are described. The following conditions are described and illustrative case reports appended in each instance: hypertrophy of primary vitreous, ablatio falciformis retinae, retinal dysplasia, metastatic ophthalmia, tuberculosis, toxoplasmosis, exudative retinitis of Coats.

The essential points of differential diagnosis are given in the short third section.

In general, this book is a valuable contribution to an important subject, and it is a pity that the nine plates are not of uniform quality.

NOTES

OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

THE society holds a considerable stock of certain volumes of the *Transactions* since their first publication in 1881. The Council would be glad to present to members such available volumes as they may desire. No charge will be made beyond the cost of packing and postage. The volumes available are:

<i>Volume</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Volume</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Volume</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	1881	7	1887	35	1915
2	1882	8	1888	45 pt. 1	1925
3	1883	9	1889	45 pt. 2	1925
4	1884	11	1891	61	1941
5	1885	12	1892	67	1947
6	1886	33	1913	68	1948

Applications, which will be dealt with in rotation, should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, 45 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2, before July 31, 1953.

SOUTH WESTERN OPTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY—SOUTHERN OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The joint meeting at the Bristol Eye Hospital, Bristol, which was planned for May 9, has been postponed to Saturday, May 30, at 2.15 p.m.

Anthony Palin } *Hon. Secretaries.*
Nigel Cridland }

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL CLINICAL SOCIETY

THE March meeting will be held at the Hospital on Wednesday, March 25, 1953, at 8 p.m. Mr. Murray A. Falconer will speak on "Visual Field Changes in Compressions of the Optic Nerve, Chiasm, and Tract".

CORRIGENDUM

British Journal of Ophthalmology (1953), 37, 125, line 6: for "glaucomatous" read "trachomatous".