BOOK REVIEW


Robert Louis Stevenson, in an essay on Talk and Talkers, uses the phrase "flies of obvious error in the amber of truth," and such a phrase would seem to sum up this book, since it is bound in amber paper and contains a series of twenty experiments designed to show that things are not always what they seem.

Some of these experiments are complex and difficult to describe without the accompanying figures; a simple one, however, is the radial motion demonstration. In this, an illuminated white square whose size can be varied is mounted on a black background, and observed monocularly as it is moved forwards and backwards through a distance of 6 ft. in a darkened room. Different effects can be produced according to the relationship between the movement and the size of the square and it is possible—among other effects—to produce the illusion that the square is motionless when it is actually coming towards the observer.

Each demonstration is fully described and is accompanied by scale drawings to show how the apparatus for producing it is made. After reading the descriptions, one is left with the hope that some enterprising physiologist with a taste for carpentry will be tempted into making at any rate some of the models, because they show in convincing fashion the bases of visual judgment. One of these models, the "leaf room", which was demonstrated at the 1950 International Congress, showed the distortion produced by aniseikonic lenses.

NOTES

XVII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

The XVII International Congress of Ophthalmology will take place at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, September 12 to 17, 1954. Dr. Bernard Samuels (New York) is President, Dr. John H. Dunnington (New York) Vice-president, Dr. William L. Benedict (Rochester, Minnesota) Secretary-General, and Dr. Derrick Vail (Chicago) Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The chief topics for discussion are:

**Primary Glaucoma:**
- Aetiology and General Considerations, Dr. Derrick Vail (Chicago, U.S.A.).
- Medical Treatment, Dr. R. Thiel (Frankfurt am Main, Germany).
- Surgical Treatment, Dr. G. P. Sourdille (Nantes, France).

**Aetiology of Uveitis:**
- General Considerations, Dr. Alan C. Woods (Baltimore, U.S.A.).
- The Role of Viruses, Dr. V. Cavara (Rome, Italy).

A number of voluntary papers on subjects of the authors' own choice will also be given. English, French, and Spanish are the administrative languages of the Congress.