Some will be disquieted to hear that the variety of objects left inside an eye during operation (p. 6153) almost rivals that of intra-ocular foreign bodies entering by accident (p. 6160–1). Another alarming piece of information is that lead poisoning can be inflicted by a hat (p. 6775). Refraction changes in diabetes have been recognized for a long time, and were indeed the subject of Sir Stewart’s first contribution to this journal nearly 30 years ago, but he now reminds us that transient myopia may arise from the administration of arsenicals (p. 6783) or sulphonamides (p. 6834).

Volume VI is unreservedly recommended, not only as a work of reference dealing with ocular injuries, but also as a source of joy to all who love ophthalmology. It is difficult to see how anyone could improve upon the author’s description of radiational cataract (p. 6557–73) or the evolution of retinal holes (p. 5846). Nor can one imagine that anybody else could have planned the chapters with such masterly judgment. All things great and small, from the fearful hazards of atomic warfare (pp. 6575–9) to the perils of glamour-cosmetics (p. 6692), come under Sir Stewart’s gaze.

No man hath walked along our roads with step
So active, so inquiring eye, or tongue
So varied in discourse.

The series of affectionate tributes to his former teachers make charming preludes to Sir Stewart’s new chapters. Similar protraits have appeared in the earlier volumes, and it is significant that, with all the achievements that stand to his credit, he can still accord such generous praise to other people’s work. How good it is to know that Volume VI will not after all be the last of this statey series. Half-a-dozen may be a good round number, but seven is more satisfying, not merely on account of its mystical significance, but because it conjures up those other Seven Wonders of the World.


The review of a posthumous book is often difficult: de mortuis nil nisi bonum. But when the book is an excellent exposition of a subject wherein the author was an acknowledged master, the task is easy. Wolff’s name will long be remembered for his work on the anatomy of the eye, and this text-book, which first appeared in 1933 and has now reached its fourth edition, incorporates much of his own researches and his personal assessment of the work of others. The book is already generally recognized as a classic and in the present edition has been considerably enlarged and improved. A large amount of new matter has been added, particularly concerning the anatomy of Schlemm’s canal and the limbus, the minute structure of the skin of the lids, the lower visual pathways, the blood supply of the ocular motor nerves, and gonioscopic appearances at the angle of the anterior chamber. Moreover, eighty new illustrations have been incorporated, many of them derived from the Institute of Ophthalmology. The book is without question the best modern treatise on the anatomy of the eye and orbit; it is indispensable for the student; it is beautifully produced and profusely illustrated; it is a living demonstration that man’s work and ideas are more lasting than man himself. It is a tragedy that the author’s untimely death means that this edition will be the last that will come from his pen.


This monograph describes the author’s method in the plastic repair of contracted sockets, with a brief review of the history of such operations.

The method consists in inserting a whole-thickness skin graft sutured on to an ingenious metal speculum into the prepared socket. The procedure is clearly described and well illustrated, and is said to give a high percentage of successful results.

The operation is not technically difficult and in view of the liability of stent or plastic moulds to be extruded, the instrument described would seem to worthy of a trial.