

CORRESPONDENCE

IRIDENCELEISIS IN CONGESTIVE GLAUCOMA

To The Editorial Committee of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

SIRS—It is always gratifying to find oneself on the side of the angels, for which reason I much appreciated the paper by Mackie and Rubinstein (1954). In doing what they advocate I have hitherto felt some secret self-contempt for choosing a line of so little resistance, performing so simple an operation rather than face the hazards of the classical iridectomy.

May I suggest a modification of the *ab externo* approach which I find advantageous. With "Conjunctival-fold Fixation Forceps" (Stenhouse Stewart, 1934), a fold of conjunctiva is held at the limbus and an incision made through conjunctiva and sclera with a BP No. 15 blade close to the jaws of the forceps. After the iris has been dealt with, the forceps are released, the conjunctiva springs back, and no suturing is necessary. This should obviate the theoretical disadvantage of scarring beneath a dissected conjunctival flap mentioned by these authors. An advantage is that one can operate without an assistant, as the forceps can be turned down to rest on the drape after the incision is made, thus freeing both hands for attention to the iris.

I am always surprised that Stenhouse Stewart's excellent instrument is not more widely known and used. I find it admirable for a variety of purposes.

I am, etc.,

A. J. BOASE.

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REFERENCES

- MACKIE, E. G. and RUBINSTEIN, K. (1954). *British Journal of Ophthalmology*, **38**, 641.
 STENHOUSE STEWART, D. (1934). *Ibid.*, **18**, 274.

BOOK REVIEWS

Text-Book of Ophthalmology, Volume VII, Summary of Systemic Ophthalmology. General Index. By Sir Stewart Duke-Elder. 1954. Pp. 245 + vii. Kimpton, London. (25s.).

Sir Stewart Duke-Elder has incorporated in this new volume a number of up-to-date therapeutic notes because, as he points out, Volume II was written before the discovery of sulphonamides, and since the appearance of Volume III penicillin and other antibiotics, together with cortisone and kindred substances, have revolutionized the treatment of many diseases.

The chapters containing the summary of systemic ophthalmology will be of immense value to practising ophthalmologists as well as to post-graduate students. Sir Stewart's comprehensive text-book necessarily included much regional description, and so it comes about that accounts of the ocular lesions occasioned by some particular constitutional disease are to be found in several different volumes. The possessor of Volume VII, however, can look up the Index and be guided to a summary of, *e.g.*, tuberculosis, syphilis, or diabetes. At the top of each double page is a key showing how the pages are numbered in the previous six volumes.

All seven volumes are embraced by the General Index which follows the Systemic Summary, and it is refreshing to find how carefully the material has been prepared for publication. Binding and general lay-out fulfil the high standard which readers have learned to expect from the firm of Henry Kimpton. Sir Stewart is to be congratulated on Volume VII, because it so effectively rounds off his distinguished text-book.

Neuro-Ophthalmology. By D. J. Lyle. Second edition, 1954. Pp. 591, 335 figs. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford. (*Six guineas*).

The first edition of this text-book which comprised 320 pages and 234 figures was fully reviewed in this journal (vol. 38, p. 385) in 1945. As is the tendency in second editions, there is an increase in size to 581 pages and 335 figures. The presentation of the material follows the same basic pattern as before but is supplemented by discussion of pathological processes and, when necessary, with histopathological studies. The references have been placed at the close of each chapter instead of being listed at the end of the book, and it is noted with satisfaction that the 880 references published (many of them to papers in British journals) have been selected from 3,174 consulted. It is unfortunate that this volume costs six guineas, which is a large sum for a text-book of this size. It is well written and profusely illustrated and, although primarily a work of reference, it can be read with pleasure. The subject matter is up-to-date and is comprehensive. The final chapter on "Syndromes which include Eye Symptoms" is particularly useful to the practising ophthalmologist, and an appendix which discusses histology is helpful in the understanding of the minute pathology of the lesions described throughout the text.

Diseases of the Retina. By H. Elwyn. Second edition, 1954. Pp. 713, 243 figs (20 col.), bibl. Churchill, London. (85s.).

In the second edition of this text-book new chapters have been added on retrolental fibroplasia, ocular tuberculosis, and sarcoidosis. Diabetic retinopathy is discussed in the light of recent work, and the chapter dealing with essential hypertension has also been modified and brought up to date. The book retains the character of its first edition. It is readable, accurate, and well illustrated, covering many conditions familiar to the ophthalmologist and the physician, and can be recommended especially to the ophthalmic surgeon in charge of an eye-department in a general hospital.