

BOOK REVIEW

Encyclopédie médico-chirurgicale (Sect. ophthal). Founded in 1929 by A. Lafont and F. Durieux. 1956. Encyclopédie Medico-Chirurgicale, Paris, 6.

This encyclopedia of Medicine and Surgery, two volumes of which are devoted to ophthalmology, is designed on a large scale and covers 27 different subjects.

The ophthalmological section has 41 contributors, chosen for their special knowledge of each subject. Although theoretically ideal, such a division of labour inevitably produces unnecessary duplication and unevenness of style.

The first difficulty in reviewing these volumes is to decide for whom they have been written. The contributions, though up-to-date, are hardly sufficiently detailed for the practising ophthalmologist and yet are too detailed for the general practitioner. Probably the work would appeal most to the student of ophthalmology, and for him it would provide a useful introduction to the subject.

The material is presented in a straightforward manner with good descriptions of symptomatology and diagnosis. Treatment is discussed only in general terms in most of the sections, and little detail, particularly of operative procedure, is included. Useful bibliographies are given at the end of each chapter.

Chapters on the radiography of the skull and orbit and on medico-legal ophthalmology are included.

The books are very well printed on good quality paper, and the reproduction of the illustrations is excellent, but unfortunately many of the photographs show too little detail to be of value.

A loose-leaf format has been chosen so that new material can be added subsequently. Again an excellent idea in theory, but necessitating heavy covers with a spring back, which combined with the large size (13 × 12 in.) and great weight (12 lb.) make the volumes very unwieldy and tiring to handle.

OBITUARY

GABRIEL-PIERRE SOURDILLE, 1901–1956

GABRIEL SOURDILLE's output of work was so prodigious that his friends often wondered how long he could keep up the pace. When the news of his rapid end came through, they thought he must have been smitten by coronary thrombosis, that bane of overburdened doctors. In fact his death arose from a malady of unknown origin. As the years pass on, those who cherish Gabriel's memory may perhaps find some consolation in the thought that our grievous loss probably could not have been averted by curbing his activity or by any other expedient; but at this stage one can only feel dismay coupled with profound sympathy for those who have most reason for grief.

Gabriel-Pierre Sourdille was born at Nantes in 1901, the son of Gilbert Sourdille, sometime Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and Director of the Nantes School of Medicine. He went to school in Nantes, and stayed there for preliminary medical studies. Then followed 10 years of hard apprenticeship in Paris, during which his Doctor of Medicine thesis won the silver medal award. He filled various resident posts, and was inspired by Professor Clovis Vincent to delve deep into the problems of neuro-ophthalmology. The technique of cataract extraction constantly interested him, and he