BOOK REVIEWS


This book, intended for the undergraduate who specializes in physics, will be very useful to him. Even the non-expert will find the book of interest, since it covers matters of such general appeal as the celebrated Michelson-Morley experiment and accurate measurements of length. The various instruments and their basic theories are described lucidly and the mathematics is easy to follow throughout.

While the reviewer regrets the omission of Cornu's spiral from Chapter 2, he notes with glee that scale readings governed by mirror galvanometers can hardly be read to a greater accuracy than 0·1 mm. He well remembers the condescending remark made by another professor of physics, namely that such accurate readings could be made "easily—with experience". One reads with surprise that Rayleigh put the Fechner fraction at 0·33, and feels that the visibility of interference fringes might well receive some attention from workers in vision. The latter will also learn, perhaps with relief, that interference filters are now made with characteristics so desirable as to advance the demise of orthodox monochromators.

The line illustrations are adequate, the plates superb. The book is not free from printers' errors, but it is the style of writing which makes it rather difficult fully to appreciate the many good points of this work. Not even the long-suffering English language should be subjected to such trials as "The problem of converting back from the visibility curve to determining the character of the original source is one of Fourier analysis". But on reading "There was not much basis in this view, ..." and "After passing respectively through ... tubes ... and ... glass plates the lens L2 brings the beams to a focus ...", one sighs with Maurois and wishes that, like the Church, one had "infinite reserves of wisdom". These points, however, are relatively unimportant, and the book can be thoroughly recommended as a valuable addition to optical literature.


This book contains an enormous number of clinical facts relating to individual patients suffering from nystagmus—mostly associated with strabismus and of congenital origin. From a study of the cases, which are divided into no less than six different groups, nystagmus is considered to be due to a too low or asymmetrical gaze tonus. In many cases the disturbance of the gaze tonus is thought to be due to a disturbance in the development of the conjugated optical fixation reflexes, i.e., to a too low or asymmetrical fixation tonus.

The authors conclude that in some cases a developmental disturbance in the occipital cortex is involved.

The book contains some valuable information, but it is difficult and exhausting to read because there is so much needless repetition and because so many cases are quoted in full detail to illustrate one particular clinical entity.
The lack of any index detracts greatly from the value of the book, although there is an excellent list of references.

There are one or two mistakes, such as the reference to "binocular visual acuity" in Case 32, p. 85, relating to a case of constant convergent squint. Presumably the authors mean "visual acuity with both eyes open", and some rather clumsy words are used, such as "emmetropizations" on p. 122.

This is certainly a valuable contribution to the literature on the subject of nystagmus.

NOTES

IRISH OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Annual Meeting, 1956

The Irish Ophthalmological Society will hold its annual meeting in Dublin on May 10, 11, and 12, 1956. The Montgomery Lecture will be delivered by Dr. M. E. Alvaro (Brazil) on May 10 in Trinity College, Dublin.

LATIN SOCIETY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

The Second Convention will be held in Madrid on April 24 to 28, 1956, under the joint presidency of Professor Dr. Buenaventura Carreras, Dr. H Arruga, Dr. Diaz Caneja, Dr. Lopez Enrique, and Dr. Perez Llorca.

The topics for discussion will include "The Use of Acrylic Material in Ophthalmology"; "Surgery of the Lacrimal Apparatus and Eyelids"; "Application of the Acrylic Lens"; "Contact Lenses"; "Intracorneal Plastics".

The secretary is Dr. C. Costi, and the assistant secretaries Dr. L. Mier, Dr. Carreras Matas, and Dr. M. Aguilar Bartolome. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary at 10 Paseo del Rey, Madrid, before February 29, 1956.

OBITUARY

LIONEL VERNON CARGILL

L. V. Cargill, who died at Highlands Heath, Putney, on December 13, 1955, aged 89, was born on June 27, 1866, and educated at King's College School, London, whence he matriculated at the University of London in July, 1884, being awarded the Salter's University Exhibition. Many years later he became Chairman of the Board of Governors of King's College School, now at Wimbledon.

In October, 1884, Vernon Cargill entered the Medical Department of King's College, Strand, and in 1887 he began his clinical studies at King's College Hospital. He received the Carter Gold Medal and many prizes, and in 1889 was the senior scholar of his year and was awarded Sir Joseph Lister's Clinical Surgery Prize. In April, 1890, after passing examinations for the M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., and L.S.A., Cargill came under the influence of M. M. McHardy, professor of ophthalmic surgery at King's College and ophthalmic surgeon to King's College Hospital, who appointed him his clinical assistant at King's