

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editorial Committee of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

SIRS—In our paper “Stereopsis and Depth Perception following Treatment for Convergent Squint” (*British Journal of Ophthalmology*, 40, 641), a reference appears to the “Oxford Congress of the Faculty of Ophthalmologists”. This unfortunate mis-statement, which should have read “Oxford Ophthalmological Congress”, did not appear in our original manuscript and we wish to apologise both to the Faculty of Ophthalmologists and to the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress for any inconvenience that it may have caused.

Yours faithfully,
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BOOK REVIEW

Keratoplasty. By R. Townley Paton. 1955. Pp. 280, 87 figs, bibliography. McGraw-Hill, London. (£10 14s. 0d.)

Dr. Paton sets the stage for his work by a comprehensive historical survey of corneal grafting. Two brief chapters on anatomy and physiology are followed by a long and informative review of case selection where many problems are presented, each being approached in a similar manner: first the literature is reviewed and the opinions of authorities are described, and then, where he considers it to be necessary, the author states his own views in the light of his wide experience.

The problems of donor material, its selection and preservation, and the differing legal aspects of its collection in various countries are next considered. Pre-operative preparation, operative technique, and post-operative care are discussed in a section which is clearly written and beautifully illustrated by drawings. The author describes not only the operations which he himself prefers but also those of other surgeons, the advantages, and disadvantages of which are clearly indicated.

The concluding chapters deal with radiation therapy, the use of cortisone, and the histology of the healing cornea, followed by a statistical survey. An appendix contains the record of some 365 personal cases of corneal grafting—a section that possibly some will find to be the most fascinating in the book.

It is refreshing to read this book which represents the philosophy of one man—an expert in his subject. There are few omissions—the chapters on anatomy and physiology are very short and some of the views expressed are not in accord with present physiological thought. Possibly the greatest criticism is that of the high price some part of which must be due to the inclusion of 29 beautiful colour photographs of pre- and post-operative conditions. These must be as great a source of satisfaction to the author as they are of delight to the reader, but it is questionable if the value of the book would have been

affected if these colour pictures had been reproduced in black and white to accompany the many other excellent photographs in this medium.

Bibliographies are given at the end of each chapter and although these are selective and adequate they are by no means comprehensive. Whatever may be these minor criticisms, the book has fully attained the expectations anticipated from a knowledge of the stature and achievements of the author. It represents a lucid, balanced, and informative exposition of the problem of keratoplasty. Dr. Paton and his publishers are to be congratulated upon this beautifully-produced work.

BOOKS REVIEWED IN *Ophthalmic Literature*

The Blind in the Life of the Nations (in German). By M. Schöffler. 1956. Pp. 280, 14 figs, 86 refs. Urania-Verlag, Leipzig.

NOTES

STANDARDIZATION OF TONOMETERS

In view of some doubt expressed in requests for advice reaching the Tonometer Testing Station of the W.H. Ross Foundation (Scotland), it is desired to draw attention to the following points:

- (1) The internationally accepted specification for tonometers refers only to the original (weighted) model.
- (2) Standardized tonometers are now on the market, but it should be remembered that the latest conversion chart gives readings appreciably lower (in mm. Hg) than those to which doctors have previously been accustomed.
- (3) Experimental work on the recalibration of weighted tonometers is now going on, but there is no means of recalibrating an X-tonometer.
- (4) There is no standard of construction for the X-tonometer, but it is hoped that an agreed standard will be arrived at in due course. In view of the popularity of this type of instrument in the United Kingdom, efforts are being made to find a solution to the many problems involved.

XVIII INTERNATIONAL OPHTHALMOLOGICAL CONGRESS

Brussels, 1958

The first International Ophthalmological Congress was held in Brussels in 1857. To mark this centenary, the next International Congress will also be held in Brussels from 8 to 12 September, 1958.

Professor Léon Coppez will preside, and all ophthalmologists are cordially invited. It is hoped that a great number will come to Belgium, where a great Universal International Exhibition will also be held in 1958.

The main subjects chosen by the International Council are:

- (1) Orthoptic Treatment of Concomitant Strabismus: presented by Dr. A. Bangerter (*St. Gallen*), Mr. T. Keith Lyle (*London*), and Professor J. Malbran (*Buenos Aires*).