BOOK REVIEWS

"It will be remembered", says Sir Stewart at the beginning of more than one sentence, and then goes on to produce some delightfully recondite piece of information. So modestly is the story set forth that many a reader is lulled into supposing that he knows it already. That is all to the good. Familiar things, even if the familiarity is more apparent than real, keep us reading. Although this is a large volume, it should not be treated as a work of reference. By all means use it as a reference book afterwards, but first of all read it right through. Every chapter is worth while, nor should the reader forget that many a gem nestles unobtrusively among the sections printed in smaller type. Sir Stewart has proclaimed his indebtedness to many helpers for technical, secretarial, and other forms of assistance. He also knows how much of the credit belongs to his forerunners in scientific research. Nevertheless, we must insist that no mere drone could have compiled anything to compare with "The Eye in Evolution". Prodigious industry was of course needed to cope with the mass of material which Sir Stewart has coaxed into shape. In the wee sma' hours, when most of us have been swathed in oblivion, his pen has gone racing over the paper, as light and nimble as the fireflies which he describes with so much gusto (p. 742). Sir Stewart tells us that the kingfisher is endowed with four foveae, but he himself, although he is limited to a pair, surveys the face of Nature as if his foveae outnumbered a butterfly's ommatidia. He has assembled his facts with discrimination, and linked them with a grasp that may justly be termed Churchillian. Therefore the reviewer's task has been converted into a pleasure tempered by only one regret—that Sir Stewart's beloved chief John Herbert Parsons did not live quite long enough to see the work in print. It is difficult to conceive how any other book could so conclusively prove that we are, in the words of the Psalmist, "fearfully and wonderfully made".


This little pamphlet, based on the experiences of the pleoptic and orthoptic school at St. Gallen, is intended to be a "hand-out" to parents of children suffering from amblyopia ex anopsia. Appropriate methods of treatment depending upon the age of the patient are given on folding pages of different colour including illustrations of certain home-work exercises.

Although some of the methods of treatment advocated are not quite in accordance with British custom, a pamphlet of this sort is a good idea, and of considerable practical value.

BOOKS RECEIVED

The following will be reviewed in Ophthalmic Literature, Vol. 12, No. 3, March (1959):


