BOOK REVIEW


This small monograph is one of a "Living Chemistry Series" edited by I. N. Kugelmas, the idea being to make intelligible to the clinician the biochemistry at present growing so rapidly in relation to many medical problems. In the preface the Editor takes his supervisory mission seriously. "Our new Series", he writes, "is charged with the nisus élán of chemical wisdom, supreme in choice of international authors, optimal in standards of chemical scholarship, provocative in imagination for experimental research, comprehensive in discussions of scientific medicine, and authoritative in chemical percepts of human disorders". Whatever that may mean, it sounds well.

This monograph, written by Sidney Lerman of New York, is good and even to the clinician should be quite comprehensible. The discussion on the physico-chemical basis of the origin and the nature of the aqueous humour and the dynamics of the intra-ocular pressure is comprehensive, simply written, and wise in its judgments, and gives the reader a broad outline of present conceptions of this difficult and involved problem in a clear and compact manner. The clinical discussion of the pathology and treatment of the various types of glaucoma is equally good. It is, of course, brief and therefore necessarily somewhat didactic rather than discursive. It would be easy to pick quarrels, but they are all minor—the importance given to the accumulation of mucopolysaccharides in the trabeculae in the aetiology of simple glaucoma, the explanation of the mechanism of the action of the carbonic anhydrase inhibitors as they affect the ciliary epithelium, the occurrence of haloes as an early sign in simple glaucoma, the unquestioned acceptance of the occurrence of a hypersecretion glaucoma on tonographic evidence, and so on. The historical purist might be horrified at the ascription to von Sallman (sic) (1956) of the observation that stimulation of the hypothalamus resulted in pupillary dilatation, for the phenomenon was minutely described by Karplus and Kreidl in 1909. However that may be, the book is excellent and certainly achieves its purpose of conveying the basic chemical facts to a clinical reader in an interesting and simple manner.

NOTES

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

A MEETING of the International Council of Ophthalmology was held in Balliol College, Oxford, on July 8, 1961.

There were present: Duke-Elder (President), Hartmann (Secretary), Streiff (Treasurer), Arruga, Lyle, Melanowski, MacDonald, Müller, Palomino Deña, Paulique, Uyemura, Vail, and Weve. The following were also present ex officio: Bietti (President, International Association for the Prevention of Blindness), Franceschetti (President, International Organization against Trachoma), Valdávellano (President, Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology), François (Secretary, European Society of Ophthalmology), Coppez (President of last Congress), San (President of next Congress), Copper (Secretary for Index Ophthalmologicus).

The following is a summary of the more important matters discussed:

1. Two new members were welcomed to the Council—Valdávellano (Peru) in his capacity of President of the Pan-American Association in place of Payne, and Vail (U.S.A.), who had been elected by the Council to replace Espildora Luque (Chile) who had resigned.