of the best of these is this small volume by Jean-Pierre Bailliart on the macula, its anatomy, embryology, and physiology, its clinical investigation both objective and entoptical, the symptoms associated with its disturbance, and the congenital anomalies, injuries, and diseases to which it is liable. The latter embrace infections, allergies, vascular accidents, and its involvement in retinopathies, systemic disease, and degenerative changes. Each section is short, clearly-written, and to the point. The illustrations are all photographic in nature.

OBITUARY

HENRICUS JACOBUS MARIE WEVE, 1888–1962

The year 1962 opened sorrowfully for ophthalmology, for Weve, one of the greatest ophthalmologists of our generation, died on the night of January 3rd, in his 73rd year.

Born at Nijmegen, he studied medicine from 1906 to 1912 at Amsterdam, and thereafter, serving his ophthalmological apprenticeship under Straub and subsequently at Würzburg, he was appointed Chief Surgeon to the Eye Hospital at Rotterdam in 1916 and in 1929 was nominated professor of ophthalmology and director of the Royal Netherlands Eye Hospital at Utrecht, posts which he retained until he retired in 1958; in this delightful academic city which he loved, Weve worked for the remainder of his life and here he died, a worthy successor of Donders and the two Snellens.

It was by hard and unremitting work, aided by an unusually keen and original intelligence and a natural flair for surgery, that Weve rose at a comparatively early age to a position of international fame and made his clinic a centre of pilgrimage from many lands. His original contributions to our specialty were innumerable and many of them of outstanding merit. His early work on uveitis and keratitis was remarkable; but even more so was his whole-hearted adoption and technical improvement of Gonin’s technique for the operation of retinal detachment in the late 1920s, an operation for which he maintained a world-wide reputation to the end of his life. In his later years his greatest interest lay in the treatment of malignant intra-ocular tumours by diathermy.

Weve revelled in the quiet academic life of Utrecht and took a prominent part in the activities of the University of which he was Rector Magnificus in 1949–50. The only disturbance in its even tenor was war. In the first world war he served in the Royal Dutch Army (1914–18), and from the unhappiness, anxieties, and deprivations of enemy occupation during the second he emerged emaciated, white-haired, and older.

Rewards and honours—all of them well merited—were heaped upon Weve during his lifetime. At home he was Oculist to the Royal House of Holland, a member of the Royal Dutch Academy of Science, and twice president of the Dutch Ophthalmological Society, and in addition held six State orders and decorations. Abroad he was an honorary member of the Royal Society of Medicine, the American Academy of Ophthalmology.
and Otolaryngology, the Royal Flemish Academy of Medicine, and a large number of ophthalmological societies including that of the United Kingdom. In 1939 he gave the Bowman Lecture, in 1951 the Montgomery Lecture, and in 1952 the Montpellier Lecture; in 1954 he was elected to the International Council of Ophthalmology.

But the admiration and honours due to Weve the ophthalmologist were small compared with the devotion of those who knew him to Weve the man. He was one of the most delightful people on earth—kindly, philosophic, and eminently sincere, with profound knowledge and an astute critical faculty. He was always brimming over with a delightful sense of humour which made him both an excellent companion and an unusually good after-dinner speaker. Everywhere he went—and he travelled widely mixing lecturing with bird-watching and gathering flowers—he was always an acceptable guest, and always left warm memories behind. These memories will linger long with his many friends in many countries; and each of them will share in the sadness of his wife who helped him enthusiastically and effectively in everything he did, and of his devoted family.

NOTES

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION DAY, 1962

The Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind is publishing a 20-page illustrated pamphlet containing practically all the statistics and other information covered by W.H.O. for release on World Health Day. This year the day fixed is April 7th, and W.H.O. has agreed to devote it to the problems of blindness. Copies of the pamphlet may be obtained from the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, 46, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.