BOOK REVIEWS


This booklet gives very detailed information on a method elaborated for the simultaneous recording of the blood pressure, the intra-ocular pressure, and the circulating choroidal blood in the rabbit. The method is based on the measurement of the cooling effect of the circulating blood on a probe heated by a thermo-element. The temperature of this probe is compared with the temperature of a probe which is not heated. The method is similar to that used by Hensel, Ruff, and Golenhofen for the measurement of the blood circulation in the muscle. The construction of the apparatus and the planning of the experiments denote the careful and skilled laboratory worker and give weight to his results. Niesel finds that the blood pressure has an important influence on the choroidal circulation. The intra-ocular pressure has an inhibiting influence. The stimulation of the cervical sympathetic and sympathicomimetic drugs have also an inhibiting influence though to a less degree. Among the experiments performed to show the influence of decreased intra-ocular pressure, one misses those related to the effect of carbonic anhydrase inhibitors. Further, the author does not discuss whether the insertion of the probe into the choroidal tissue elicits vascular changes and reflexes which may affect the amount of blood accumulated in the choroid as well as the amount of blood flowing through it. How the temperature of the laboratory may influence the results should also be considered. The equatorial parts of the choroid, into which the probes are inserted, lie too near to the surface to be independent of the effect of the air temperature. In a cold room the tissue and the blood will cool down and bring down the temperature of the heated probe much more quickly. As the non-heated probe is exposed to the same factors, however, the difference may not amount to much. Again, the rate of the blood flow will be directly influenced by the air temperature as is the case with the blood circulation in the skin. All these influences may partly compensate each other, but this is difficult to evaluate.


The year-book of ophthalmology for 1961–1962, one of a series of fifteen covering the whole field of medicine, contains in summary as in previous years an excellent selection of the literature of the period profusely and well annotated by the editor. There is a preliminary survey on keratoplasty by Sir Benjamin Rycroft.


This “Atlas” is designed to help medical students or general practitioners rather than ophthalmologists. The author, who is the Director of the Budapest Eye Clinic, has divided her work into two volumes. This first one, after a brief introduction on the relevant anatomy, deals with diseases of the lids, conjunctiva, cornea, sclera, and iris. Each condition illustrated is accompanied by explanatory notes. The quality of the illustrations is high and it is to be hoped that the English version mentioned by the publishers will soon be available.
BOOK REVIEWS


This newly issued Recueil brings the reader up to date with the following subjects: anatomy of the lids, conjunctiva, oculomotor muscles, Tenon’s capsule, ophthalmic artery, the longitudinal posterior bundle, and the sympathetic and parasympathetic nerves (F. Hervouët and H. Chevannes); injuries to the lids, plastic surgery (P. Brégeat, P. Juge, and G. Coscas); methods of examination and semioleology of the orbit (P. Payrau); contusions of the globe, including wounds, foreign bodies, burns, injuries caused by dust, fumes, and gas (Ch. Coutela and P. Dherry); vision and choice of vocation (H. Hollier-Larousse).

As usual the subjects are dealt with by experts in each topic and the (now generally accepted) high standard of the Encyclopaedia is maintained.


That virus infections incurred by the mother during pregnancy produce congenital anomalies in the offspring is now fully established, although the authenticity of many of the abnormalities which have been ascribed from time to time to this cause is not always fully clear. In the study of this somewhat difficult problem, Gian Tondury has established himself as an authority and his critical summary of our knowledge of this subject is both valuable and interesting. From the ophthalmological point of view, two conditions are of importance: the development of cataract and retinal folds following maternal rubella and epidemic parotitis.

NOTES

OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Annual Congress, 1962

The 82nd Annual Congress of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom was held at the Royal Society of Medicine on April 12 to 14, 1962.

After an address of welcome by the President, Mr. Frank Law, the opening session was devoted to a discussion on “Therapy in Orthoptics”, in which the principal speakers were Prof. C. Cüppers (Geissen, Germany), Dr. Alan Stanworth, and Miss Sheila Mayou. Prof. Cüppers, who is well known for his researches into amblyopia and the development of pleoptic methods, discussed the physiological background of the binocular process and the various forms of amblyopia. He pointed out that there was no relation between visual acuity and the type of fixation in squint disorders. Dr. Stanworth reviewed the factors which have a favourable prognostic significance with regard to orthoptic treatment with additional surgery if this were necessary. He emphasized the poor results of early surgery with regard to the attainment of single binocular vision, but felt that the advantages tended to outweigh the disadvantages. He advocated that, in the routine examination of children up to the age of 3, special consideration should be given to the grade of binocular vision and type of fixation present. Miss Mayou reported the orthoptic aspects of a series of patients with heterophoria and stressed the importance of occlusion in some of these patients irrespective of age, where uniocular symptoms were present and the visual acuity in the two eyes was slightly different, even though no true amblyopia existed. She