BOOK REVIEWS


A short book of reference written for the student, internist, nurse, and general practitioner. It contains brief notes on the anatomy and main clinical conditions of the eye.


The matters brought up-to-date in this latest Cahier comprise:

- Genetic disease of the lids and anomalies of the lids (P. Brégeat and P. Juge), Virus conjunctivitis and kerato-conjunctivitis (R. Nataf and G. Coscas), Examination of lacrimal secretion (C. Dejean), Mutilating surgery of the globe (P. Payrau and P. Fontan), Methods of examination and general symptomatology of the cornea (G. Bonamour and M. Bonnet), Tuberculosis of the cornea (L. Calmettes and F. Déodati), Virus keratitis (C. Bonamour and M. Bonnet), Acquired and progressive corneal dystrophy and degeneration (G. Bonamour and J. Audibert), Degeneration of the choroid (M. Appelmans), Tumours of the uveal tract (G. Offret and C. Haye), Syphilis of the uveal tract (L. Calmettes and F. Déodati), Retinal detachment—pathological anatomy (F. Hervouët), Treatment of retinal detachment (G. Offret and C. Haye), Medico-legal ophthalmology (M. LeRoy).

As always, the contents of the Cahier are informative and well-illustrated and repay perusal.


The Glasgow Eye Infirmary has played a significant role in the treatment of eye disease in the West of Scotland since its foundation in 1824, and this book gives a lucid and interesting account of the evolution of the hospital and of the personalities who have been associated with it during that time. Its origin stemmed from the driving force of William Mackenzie, who also achieved international recognition for his textbook—"Practical Treatise on Disease of the Eye". Published in 1830 when he was 39 years of age and having served for several decades as the standard reference book on the subject, it remains still as a treasured possession of many practising ophthalmologists. Other well-known names are mentioned—the late Prof. A. J. Ballantyne, the late Dr. George Coats, Dr. John Marshall, Prof. I. C. Michaelson, and Prof. W. J. B. Riddell—but the main theme of the book is the record of the many people who served the Hospital in various capacities so skilfully and so faithfully that the Glasgow Eye Infirmary has reached its present position in the field of ophthalmology.


It may seem strange that in a subject which excited attention 15 centuries before the Christian era and has been a constant source of interest and speculation since, no monograph has ever before been written collecting and analysing the immense amount of clinical and experimental material that has accumulated around it. Such is the case with nutritional deficiencies as they affect the eye. This book by McLaren is therefore sure to find a welcome; and it deserves it. The number and nature of the ocular complications of malnutritional states are very varied, affecting the lids, the outer eye, the lens, the retina, the optic nerve, and occasionally the central nervous system; their importance is shown by the present estimate that every year 20,000 children are rendered totally blind through this cause. The various deficiencies that may arise owing to a lack of proteins, amino acids, vitamins, and the essential elements are fully discussed. It is a subject on which many uncritical statements have been made and wherein the results of animal experiments
have been too freely transposed to the case of man; for nutritionists are often poor pathologists and worse ophthalmologists. This present volume, however, is written out of a wide personal experience of the problems involved, with an open but yet critically scientific mind, and it is certainly worth study.

NOTES

OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Annual Congress, 1964

The Annual Congress of the Ophthalmological Society will be held at the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street, Dublin, from April 15 to 17, 1964.

The Bowman Lecture will be delivered by the Right Honourable the Lord Cohen of Birkenhead.

Members wishing to read a paper, to give a pictorial demonstration, or to show a film are asked to send the title, together with an abstract, to Mr. I. M. Duguid at the London Hospital, E.1., not later than November 30, 1963.

CONTACT LENS SOCIETY

International Congress, 1964

The congress will be held at Bath, Somerset, England, from May 25 to 29, 1964. Further papers are invited and intending contributors should send full details to the Secretary, Contact Lens Society, 128 Blackfriars Rd., London, S.E.1, not later than November 7, 1963.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL

Refresher Course, 1964

A further course will be held at the Courage Laboratory from February 17 to 21, 1964. Those wishing to attend should apply to Prof. A. Sorsby, Courage Laboratory, Royal Eye Hospital, London, S.E.1., before December 1, 1963.

OBITUARY

DAVID WILSON, 1881–1962

Dr. David Wilson, a well-known ophthalmic surgeon in South Devon, died in Torquay after a short illness on June 5. He was 82. He was born in 1881 at Huddersfield and was educated at Epsom College. He won the Watts prize and entered St. Thomas's Hospital in 1901, where he qualified with the Conjoint diploma in 1905, taking the M.B., B.S. in 1907. In 1914 he joined the R.A.M.C. and served from 1914 to 1918, during which time he was mentioned in dispatches.

After the war he came back to Huddersfield and started to study ophthalmology, being later appointed aural and ophthalmic surgeon at the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. In 1923 he went to Torquay. He was appointed ophthalmic surgeon to the Old Torbay Hospital, and later to the New Torbay Hospital, and was attached as ophthalmic surgeon to Paignton and Newton Abbot Hospitals. He retired in 1946. A member of the B.M.A. for 55 years, he served as honorary secretary of the Huddersfield Division in 1922–3 and as a member of the Ophthalmic Group Committee during 1938–49.

CORRIGENDUM

In the article by K. E. Schirmer, which appeared in the August issue, entitled "Assessment of Corneal Sensitivity", on p. 492, line 7, for 'hypeaesthesia' read 'hypeaesthesia'. i.e. decreased sensitivity.