CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editorial Committee of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

SIRS,—That dichlorphenamide, which is much in use for reducing the intra-ocular pressure, is capable of causing kidney damage is well known, and a check on electrolyte balance and urine examination is advised, but this in itself may not be an adequate precaution.

We have encountered a case of anuria 7 days after the administration of the drug Daranide in therapeutic doses. The investigations on blood electrolytes showed no abnormality and the urine started to be formed 48 hours after the drug was withdrawn. Kidney functions were normal afterwards.

Since this drug is sometimes used in Out-Patients Departments in ophthalmic practice, its toxic effect on the kidneys common to all sulphonamides should be kept in mind.

Yours faithfully,

A. GROVER, Ophthalmic Registrar.

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY,
HUDDERSFIELD, YORKS.
October 14, 1963.

BOOK REVIEWS

System of Ophthalmology. Vol. 3, Pt. 1, Embryology. By SIR STEWART DUKE-ELDER. 1963. Pp. 313, 372 figs, bibl. Kimpton, London. (63s.)

This latest volume of the "System of Ophthalmology" is divided into two parts. The first of these, on the development of the eye, is published separately; the second part, on congenital anomalies, is to follow.

The clinician may view with some misgiving the prospect of reading embryology once again: he may rest assured that no such misgiving is justified. The development of the eye is presented with the same combination of panoramic comprehension and attention to minutiae that has become the mark of the work as a whole, as of its predecessor, the "Text-book". The leisured style and readability are here as before.

A concise exposition of the history of the science of embryology opens the book and an account is then given of the general development of the embryo. The study of the developing human eye is allowed to enter only after a careful grounding in modern views on tissue and organ determination. The whole work is permeated by examples drawn from experimental and comparative embryology.

The main features of ocular development are covered by considering successively the neural and surface ectoderm and the mesoderm. A slight disadvantage is the need to refer to several parts of the book in order to get a complete account of the embryology of a composite organ such as the cornea or iris.

There are full and detailed presentations of the development of the ocular vascular system and of the adnexa. A useful chapter on the time sequence of the embryology of the eye is given, and finally there is an excellent section on post-natal growth. Profuse illustrations are given which enhance an already lucid text. The numerous references to electron microscopy are testimony to the modernity of the work.

The reduced size—and therefore easier handling—of this book is an innovation in the "System". Its compactness bears witness to the editor's clarity of presentation.