OBITUARY

RICHARD COLLEY, 1894–1964

Mr. Richard Colley, honorary ophthalmic surgeon to the Royal United Hospital, Bath, died on June 27, 1964, at the age of 70.

He qualified from the University of Manchester in 1916. After holding house appointments at the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, he was commissioned in the R.A.M.C., and served in Mesopotamia and was mentioned in despatches. After the war he held house appointments at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and at the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital. He was appointed ophthalmic surgeon to the Royal United Hospital, Bath, in 1923, and to the Bath Eye Infirmary in 1925. He was later, in 1937, appointed to a similar post at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases. From 1942 onwards, he had sole responsibility for the Bath Eye Infirmary and the eye cases in the other Bath hospitals. He retired in 1959, but remained a member of the house committees of both the Bath Eye Infirmary and the Royal United Hospital.


This comprehensive survey of human genetics edited by P. E. Becker of Göttingen is designed to comprise five volumes; the first covers basic principles and the others are devoted to clinical aspects. This fourth volume deals with the eyes, ears, nose, and throat, and the skin and its appendages. The section on the ocular aspects of genetics written by D. Klein and A. Franceschetti occupies 207 pages and gives an excellent outline of all aspects of hereditary disease as it affects the eye and its adnexa and the associated regions of the nervous system. The information contained in the equally excellent work on genetics in ophthalmology written by these authors in association with Waardenburg is thus made available to the German reader. The illustrations are excellent, the bibliography extensive, and the production of the book above reproach.


Ocular therapeutics is indeed a wide subject and this compendium of the knowledge of sixteen ophthalmologists, a dermatologist, and an allergist, all of whom have made original contributions to some aspect of treatment, is worth-while reading. The general conception of the book is good and its scope clearly defined. It is not concerned with symptomatology or diagnosis beyond defining the various classical conditions; it summarizes medical methods of treatment for both ambulatory patients and those in hospital, it indicates when surgical treatment is advisable or necessary, and there it stops. It does not pretend to analyse the literature, but each author indicates succinctly his own lines of treatment and his own way of handling the clinical problems assigned to him; and for the most part this is well and wisely done. There are, of course, instances when the treatment thus laid down would not be generally acceptable, such as the initial treatment of all cases of venous occlusion of the retina by intensive anti-coagulant therapy (heparin) followed by the administration of Dicumarol for years. It would seem that one of the advantages of such multiple authorship is that the book is up to date and contains such recent additions to our therapeutic armamentarium as the new anti-viral agents in external infections of the eye, oral glycerol as a hypotensive agent, and the treatment of hyphaema by fibrinolysin (but not urokinase). Moreover, many of the dangers of multiple authorship are overcome by good editing. The books offer interesting reading and should prove of great value as a quick and ready source of reference to the ophthalmologist in doubt.