Ophthalmological Society of The United Kingdom.

The Ninth Annual Congress of the Society was held at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 5, 6, and 7, 1921. The President, Mr. J. Herbert Fisher, was in the Chair, and the attendance was excellent. In spite of the difficulty of travelling in these days of coal shortage, many of the Provincial and Scottish Members were present, while Ireland was well represented by Dr. J. B. Story, the late President.

In opening the proceedings the President chose as his theme, the personal equation in clinical ophthalmology; he made a sympathetic allusion to the recent deaths of two of the original members of the Society, Mr. Higgs and Mr. H. E. Juler.

Dr. Maitland Ramsay read the first paper on "A case of Iridocyclitis associated with swelling of the Parotid Glands." These cases are rare, or perhaps it would be better to say, that very few have been recorded. The Society was fortunate in having recorded in its Transactions an account of a similar case by Dr. George Mackay, P.R.C.S.Edin., in 1917. Dr. Mackay was unavoidably detained in Edinburgh by causes connected with an important surgical meeting there, but he sent by Dr. Traquair some further notes of his case. The case was discussed by the President, Drs. Hawthorne, Gray Clegg, and Percival. There was a consensus of opinion that such cases must be of toxic origin; in Dr. Maitland Ramsay's case a most searching examination had failed to detect the cause. Thyroid treatment was exhibited with very gratifying results.

Drs. Gray Clegg and Gordon Renwick read the notes of a case of partial monocular lamellar cataract associated with persistent pupillary membrane and injury at birth, and showed illustrations of the case upon the screen. The President, Sir William Lister, and Messrs. Collins, Mayou, Inman, and Goulden spoke on the subject.

Major Alexander read notes on the influence of age on the power of the crystalline lens, and a paper on the determination of cyclophoria at a near distance; difficult subjects, and the President and Dr. Percival were the only members present who were bold enough to contribute to the discussion.

Mr. R. R. James read a communication of an historical nature dealing with the life and works of Sir William Read, the noted quack oculist to Queen Anne.

Two papers sent by Dr. Wood, of Cape Town, on cases of flat neoplasm of the choiroid, and on a case of symmetrical encroachment of the conjunctivae on the corneal margins terminated the morning business.

After lunch, a discussion was held on the psychology of vision in health and disease. Professor C. Spearman, in opening from the physical standpoint, gave a lucid address on the retinal corresponding
points. He spoke on the empirical and nativist theories of visual space, the "specific energy" of the nerve fibres, the theorems of Wheatstone, and other points, and brought forward some new experimental evidence on the subject of stereopsis, with a demonstration.

Mr. J. Herbert Parsons, F.R.S., was the opener from the ophthalmological side. He regretted that Sir Frederick Mott had been unable to open the discussion. His paper, which was a long one, dealt with the evolution of visual perceptions with special reference to the role of suppression.

Sir Robert Armstrong-Jones spoke on the comparative rarity of blindness in lunatics, in contradistinction to deafness; he detailed the results of experiments made at Claybury, many years ago, in which he had investigated the reaction of lunatics to coloured environment.

Dr. Kinnier Wilson dealt with the psychological peculiarities in some visual auras in cases of epilepsy. Mr. Frank Juler spoke on amblyopia from disuse: he brought forward a series of twenty-two cases of traumatic cataract occurring in childhood. His paper showed that, speaking generally, the earlier in life the accident occurred, the worse the visual result. After the age of six, given a healthy fundus and vitreous, and with no gross corneal scar in the line of vision, he found that a visual result of six-twelths and sometimes six-ninths could reasonably be expected. Dr. Percival also read a communication, while Dr. Harford entertained the company with some interesting diagrams of the psyche and soma, in cases of presbyopia and miners' nystagmus.

At 5 p.m. Mr. E. Treacher Collins delivered the Bowman Lecture in memory of the Founder. He took as his subject, "Changes in the Visual Organs, correlated with the adoption of arboreal life and the assumption of the Erect Posture," and held the attention of a very large audience for an hour and fifteen minutes.

The dinner of the Society was held at the Langham Hotel in the evening.

After an excellent dinner the President proposed the health of the Society: he asked those present to drink their own healths, which they did with much gusto; he said how proud he was to follow in the footsteps of his distinguished forerunners at St. Thomas's Hospital, Mr. Nettleship and Mr. Lawford. Mr. Richardson Cross gave the health of the Bowman Lecturer, spoke of Mr. Collins's tireless energy in whatever is for the good of the Society and his long connection with it, both in and out of office. Mr. Collins made a humorous reply, obstetrical in type.

Sir Anderson Critchett proposed the health of the President in a most felicitous speech and drawing a parallel between the doubting Apostle St. Thomas and Mr. Fisher, drew from the latter, in his
response, the statement that it is a question whether St. Thomas's Hospital may not have, in its name, an allusion to the martyred Archbishop of Canterbury.

On Friday morning a discussion was held on the treatment of manifest concomitant squint, opened by Messrs. Worth and Ballantyne. This is a subject of perennial interest; varied are the views as to the value of fusion training, the age at which operation should be recommended and the type of operation to be preferred. It provoked, as was to be expected, a good discussion, and Mr. Bishop Harman gave an excellent description illustrated by lantern slides of his reeving operation.

The clinical meeting was held at St. Thomas's Hospital in the afternoon. Mr. Fisher had been at great pains to arrange a good meeting. Among many exhibits by members of the St. Thomas's staff, special mention may be made of Professor Shattock's slides showing malarial parasites in the intra-ocular vessels, and Professor Parsons' anatomical specimens. The cases shown were numerous and interesting, and the Hospital and Florence Nightingale Home were open for inspection, while the Matron had kindly provided tea. Colonel Herbert brought up a series of cases to illustrate his iris prolapse operation in cases of glaucoma, on which he was to read a paper in the evening, while Dr. Maitland Ramsay demonstrated Barraquer's suction apparatus for the extraction of cataract. As we walked over Westminster Bridge on our way home, the shadows of two great ophthalmological heroes of the past were present in our imagination, William Cheselden and John Ranby. We were a little uncertain whether they would have been able to find their way about the modern St. Thomas's Hospital or whether they were hovering in the purlieus of London Bridge station in search of their old haunts; but that they were stirring that afternoon, we were convinced.

Some very important papers were read at the evening session. Colonel Herbert and Dr. Harrison Butler dealt with glaucoma. Messrs. Goulden and Whiting read the notes and showed lantern slides of a case of implantation cyst of the sclera following a squint operation. Sir William Lister spoke on intra-ocular epithelial cysts and also read a paper on punctate deposits on the retina. In each case he showed some really beautiful pictures of the preparations, both macroscopic and microscopic; he is to be congratulated, especially on his second paper, which places our knowledge of a very rare condition on a scientific basis.

On Saturday morning the usual business meeting was held after the Report of the Council of British Ophthalmologists had been read. The officers elected for the ensuing year are as follows:—President, Mr. Fisher; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. Story, Parsons, Grimsdale, and Cyril Walker; Treasurer, Sir Arnold Lawson;
Council, Messrs. Mayou, Brailey, Goulden, R. R. James, Traquair, and Harrison Butler; Secretaries, Messrs. Juler and J. F. Cunningham.

Mr. P. G. Doyne read an able paper on scotometry. He dealt with enlargement of the blind spot and scotomata in cases of chronic glaucoma, high myopia and tobacco amblyopia. Numerous charts were shown and the author is to be congratulated on a laborious and very useful piece of work.

Sir Arnold Lawson and Mr. Neame read the notes of a case of orbital tumour; the pathogenesis of this tumour is not absolutely settled yet, some further staining experiments being necessary; but it seems very likely that the case is one of neuroma of a ciliary nerve, a very rare thing indeed.

Mr. Grimsdale read a paper on the centre of rotation of the eye from the physiologico-anatomical point of view.

Mr. Stack showed a motor trephine, the motive force reminding one of the gyroscopic tops of one's childhood, and Dr. Traquair showed for Dr. Mackay two other forms of motor trephine.

A paper by Mr. Ormond on his method of suction extraction of cataract terminated the proceedings.

During Thursday and Friday the optophone was on view in the Bowman Library.

COUNCIL OF BRITISH OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

Annual Report

The Council of British Ophthalmologists has to report that at the first meeting of the Session 1920-1921, Mr. J. B. Lawford was elected President in place of Sir Anderson Critchett, who filled the office with distinction during the first two years of the Council's work.

Sir George Berry and Mr. E. Treacher Collins were elected Vice-Presidents, Mr. J. Herbert Fisher, Honorary Treasurer, and Mr. Leslie Paton, Honorary Secretary. The following members were elected on the Executive Committee:-Messrs. Fisher, Collins, Parsons and Mayou, with the President and Secretary ex officis.

It will be remembered that in 1919 the Council issued a report dealing with the training and examination of ophthalmic surgeons. It is gratifying to note that the following special examinations in ophthalmology have recently been established:-

M.S. London (Ophthalmology).
M.S. Victoria University, Manchester (Ophthalmology).
D.O.M.S. Conjoint Board, R.C.P. (Lond.), and R.C.S. (Eng.)

Also that at the present time a Committee of the Royal College...