BOOK REVIEWS


This symposium report is mainly concerned with the effect of oxyphenbutazone (Tanderil), a non-steroid anti-inflammatory agent. This drug has been found to be effective in many types of ocular inflammation and was thought to reduce the inflammatory reaction following operations on the eye.

Animal experiments suggested that oxyphenbutazone exerted an inhibitory effect on the carbohydrate metabolism of the lens, but there was no clinical evidence of opacities following its use in human beings. Few serious side-effects have been reported from the use of this drug in cases of ocular inflammation, but several contributors felt that the risk of side-effects was sufficient to advise against its prophylactic use as a routine in ocular surgery.


As is usual in this series, this volume contains two reviews, a very comprehensive summary of the value and shortcomings of steroids in ophthalmic therapy by Leopold and Barnet of New York, and a general survey of keratoplasty as it stands to-day, together with an account of the development and value of eye-banks by Stucchi of Lausanne. Both articles are excellent. Two original articles make up the remainder of the volume: the introduction of a new applanation tonometer by Draeger and Becker of Hamburg, and a discussion of accommodation by Elisabeth Meier of Basel, particularly concerning the theory of intracapsular accommodation initially put forward by Gullstrand.


Our readers will be glad to know that the last volume of this comprehensive work edited by Karl Velhagen of Berlin has now been published, thus completing a series of great value to the ophthalmologist and providing a fitting sequel to the Kurzes Handbuch edited by Schieck and Brückner some 30 years ago. This volume, with its several authors, has a variegated composition. The first 315 pages tell the story of glaucoma in this volume; the second section deals with radiotherapy; the third with refractive errors, to which is appended an interesting historical account of the development of spectacles and the optical industry; then follows an equally delightful sketch of the history of ophthalmology from the earliest known civilizations to the present century. A section follows on blindness, its causes and the social efforts undertaken for the amelioration of its effects, and this is succeeded by a short summary of the host of syndromes occurring in or in association with ophthalmology, and a final short but interesting section on common diagnostic mistakes and their avoidance. The book is unusually informative, easy to read, and well illustrated, and the bibliographies to each section, while (necessarily) not comprehensive, are extremely valuable.


This is one of two volumes concerned with the assessment of children with cerebral palsy. Among the features considered are the locomotor system, hearing, speech, and psychology. This volume contains the section on vision which consists mainly of an elementary discussion of paediatric opthalmology. It is emphasized that many children with this condition have eye abnormalities and that if a visual defect is found it must not be ascribed to the cerebral condition alone. There is also a chapter on visuo-perceptual and visuo-motor disorders.

718