

## CORRESPONDENCE

### SIDE-EFFECTS OF TOPICAL THERAPY WITH OPTRANE

To the Editorial Committee of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

SIRS,—Within recent years there has been a little renewed interest in the treatment of seborrhoeic blepharo-conjunctivitis other than by modifications of the time-honoured methods, *e.g.* selenium sulphide (Quintieri, 1955; Selfa, 1958), and more recently Octrane (Penotrane) (Jackson, 1965).

We had Octrane on trial during the period August, 1965, to February 1966, when thirteen patients who were thought to be suitable for this treatment were examined. The results were by no means dramatic, and as success in treating this condition can be obtained by simple mechanical cleansing alone, it may be necessary to assess therapy on side-effects and on the lack of good response (Wong, Fasanella, Haley, Marshall, and Krehl, 1956).

Of our thirteen patients, five suffered from irritation and all from allergy. We feel that this incidence of side-effects is too high, even though none of these was serious. All patients had the treatment for only a short time.

Yours faithfully,

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**System of Ophthalmology.** Edited by S. DUKE-ELDER. Vol. IX. **Diseases of the Uveal Tract.** By S. DUKE-ELDER and E. S. PERKINS. 1966. Pp. 978, 815 figs, bibl. Kimpton, London. (£11)

This volume, forming one part of the fifteen-volume "System of Ophthalmology", deals with the diseases of the uveal tract. Inevitably certain pathological conditions lie on the fringes of the subject. The authors state that it is their intention to deal with all diseases which occur primarily in the uveal tract. Difficulty arises in connexion with diseases of the retina. Those which are primarily uveal though the symptoms are due to retinal lesions are discussed in this volume, and certain infections such as *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Toxocara canis* which usually commence in the retina and which cause many uveal symptoms and signs have been included among uveal inflammations. General infections of the eyeball such as panophthalmitis and endophthalmitis are also included. It is interesting to find that the epithelial tumours of the uveal tract are classified as benign and malign. The latter term has a clear meaning but it is not usually used in pathological descriptions.

The general arrangement of the book is, of course, beyond criticism, and lists of references on all subjects are very complete. The illustrations are excellent (though plate XI in the review copy has been inserted upside-down) and the references from the text are clear and concise.

**Paralysis of the Ocular Muscles.** (Augenmuskellähmungen). By F. A. HAMBURGER and F. HOLLWICH. 1966. Pp. 283, 270 figs. (Supplement to *Klin. Mbl. Augenheilk.*) Enke, Stuttgart. (DM.38)

This book on disturbances of the ocular muscles has been compiled by eight well-known authors. There is little overlapping between the papers: anatomy, physiology, methods of examination, neurology, and operative treatment are thoroughly dealt with. In a very instructive section on the electromyogram (EMG), Huber demonstrates the value of this method for a detailed analysis of paretic conditions; it differentiates muscular, neuro-muscular, neurogenic, and central paralyses, and is of value in prognosis and as a guide to operative treatment. In children a sedative is required. Huber suggests that the EMG should be studied in all cases of doubtful aetiology, but this postulate has apparently not been fulfilled in a contribution by Adelstein and Cüppers on true and pseudo-paralysis of the lateral rectus muscles in children; according to them the convergent position is often due not to paralysis of the lateral rectus muscles but to strong innervation of the medial rectus muscles to suppress nystagmus. Much that is new is presented in this small book and it is certainly useful for brushing up the old-established data which are easily forgotten.

**Atlas of Diabetic Retinopathy** (Atlas der Retinopathia diabetica). By A. DOLÉNEK and A. TAKÁČ. 1966. Pp. 82, figs 2, col. illus. 100. Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart. (DM.58)

This beautiful atlas of diabetic retinopathy is well worth studying. There is a short and concise outline of the main clinical features of the condition and its pathology followed by 100 illustrations photographically recorded, all in colour and of a very high standard. The first is a reproduction of the first coloured plate of this condition produced by Edouard Jäger of Vienna in 1854, published in his *Beiträge zur Pathologie des Auges* in 1855; the remainder are original and illustrate with an explanatory text every aspect of the retinopathy, varying from the early venous dilatation, the formation of micro-aneurysms, haemorrhages, and exudates to the more gross types of proliferative retinopathy with its characteristic neovascularization and extensive formation of fibrous tissue in the vitreous. The photographer and the publishers are to be congratulated.

**Proceedings of a European Symposium on the Study of Strabismus** (Parma, 1964). Edited by L. PASINO, G. MARAINI, and M. CORDELLA. 1965. Pp. 128. Italseber, Milan.

This short volume is an interesting account of a symposium on some problems associated with strabismus, held in Parma in April, 1964. It consists of four papers followed by a long round-table discussion. François and Verriest (*Ghent*) discussed the visual functions of an amblyopic eye, Hugonnier (*Lyons*) the "A" and "V" phenomena, Matteucci (*Parma*) the treatment of cases with eccentric fixation, and Cüppers (*Giessen*) the influence of motor factors in such cases. The subsequent discussion covered a wide range of subjects and brought out many interesting points.

**Ocular Pharmacology.** By W. H. HAVENER. 1966. Pp. 456, 198 figs, 37 tables. Refs. Kimpton, London. (163s. 6d.)

The multiplicity of new drugs which have been used in ophthalmic treatment in the last few years raises serious problems for the practising ophthalmologist. Enthusiastic descriptions of successful results leave a greater impression on the reader than cautious well-controlled trials. Harmful side-effects may take many years to recognize and more years before they are widely known among prescribers of the drug in question.

The author of this book is to be congratulated on marshalling the evidence concerning the effectiveness of a comprehensive list of therapeutic agents in a very readable and balanced manner. Particular emphasis is put on controlled observations, and the fallacies inherent in relying on clinical impressions unsupported by properly controlled trials are described.

This book is, however, more than a reference book of pharmacology as applied to the eye; it also contains a great deal of sound advice on therapeutic régimes. In addition to excellent chapters on antibiotics, anticoagulants, antiviral drugs, drugs used in the treatment of glaucoma, and a wide variety of other agents used in local and systemic therapy, there is an excellent chapter on regional

and general anaesthesia. Throughout the book original papers have been extensively consulted and the results discussed critically; a full bibliography is appended to each chapter. The illustrations are numerous and are mostly graphic representations of drug actions taken from experimental situations, in both man and animal.

The writing is concise and clear and the book is well produced. Although rather expensive, it contains a great deal of information of immediate practical value and will help to sustain the highest standards of treatment. I should like to add my support for the final plea that all drugs given to patients should be labelled with the name of the drug.

## NOTES

### FACULTY OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

#### *Study Tour to Lyons, 1966*

Under the organization of the Faculty of Ophthalmologists, and the leadership of Mr. Bill Pearce, ten ophthalmologists of registrar status accepted the kind invitation of Professor Paufigue and visited his *Clinique Ophtalmologique* in the *Hôpital Edouard-Herriot* at Lyons between September 26 and October 7, 1966.

A series of most interesting lectures had been prepared and was delivered by members of Prof. Paufigue's staff. These included the introductory lecture by Prof. Paufigue himself on the "Present status of treatment of retinal detachment", a lecture on "Some rare cases in ophthalmology" by Prof. G. Bonamour, and round-table discussions on strabismus and glaucoma by Prof. H. Hugonier and Dr. R. Etienne respectively. Other members of Prof. Paufigue's staff spoke on the following subjects: "Ocular paralysis in facial trauma", Dr. Rougier; "New techniques in corneal grafting", Dr. Charleux; "Rare cases", Dr. Ravault; "Fistulae of the cornea", Dr. Bonnet; "Biochemistry of the vitreous", Dr. Manuel.

On alternate mornings members attended operating sessions. Among the most interesting of the operative techniques that are being used in Lyons is the construction of scleral pockets with implantation of lyophilised fascia lata for extensive retinal detachment with multiple tears; this procedure was particularly impressive for its ability to cover holes in a posterior as well as an equatorial direction. Exteriorised pockets using lyophilised donor sclera and fascia lata implant were also most instructive. Probably the most technically impressive operative work was the corneal grafting of Prof. Paufigue and his chief assistant Dr. Charleux, whose beautiful variety of lamellar, penetrating, and Stockers grafts members will rarely see equalled or surpassed.

Over and above these most instructive aspects of their visit members were given most royal entertainment by their hosts. Memories are still vivid of the luncheon given by Prof. Bonamour, where food, wine, and excellent company were enjoyed in a superb mountain setting with vistas down towards the city of Lyons. The dinner given by Prof. Paufigue will always be remembered and its gastronomic perfection was an education in itself. A most exciting occasion was the reception to which the party was invited by Dr. Rougier. One most congenial and welcome afternoon was spent taking an "English" tea at the home of Mme Laurant of the Genetics Institute.

Members would like to thank all their hosts in Lyons for making the tour such a great success. In particular they wish to thank Prof. Paufigue for so generously giving so much of his and his colleagues' time and energy to our instruction and entertainment. Mlle Vial, Prof. Paufigue's secretary, must also be thanked for her kindness and for her inestimable help with our language difficulties. Many thanks also to Dr. Tigeaud for the gift of lyophilised fascia lata to all members of the tour.