

BOOK REVIEWS

Proceedings of the XX International Congress of Ophthalmology, Munich, 1966. 2 vols, 1967. Pp. 1,245. Excerpta Medica Foundation, Amsterdam. (£27 4s.)

The Report of the International Congress held in Munich in August, 1966, has now been published in two volumes and takes the usual form now standardized for these meetings. After describing the official proceedings of the opening and closing sessions, the first volume narrates the main discussions on the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the retinal circulation and the problems of uveitis in childhood, and summarizes the four symposia held in association with the Congress—the Jules Gonin Club, electro-encephalography, glaucoma, and strabismus. The second volume reports the round-table discussions on statistical methods of evaluating therapeutic results and on infections by viruses and fungi, and the proceedings of the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness. Included also in this volume are the 76 “free” papers read at the meeting on such subjects as cataract, keratoplasty, other surgical procedures, tumours, rare diseases, epidemiology, and anatomy and physiology. The volumes are well reproduced and illustrated with short reports of the discussions and an adequate index, and provide interest for every type of ophthalmological reader.

Transactions of the First International Congress of Orthoptists held at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, July 3–5, 1967. THE BRITISH ORTHOPTIC SOCIETY. 1968. Pp. 376, numerous figs, tables, and refs. Kimpton, London. (3 gns.)

This volume describes the opening ceremony held in the Royal College of Surgeons and the papers given during the three days of the Congress together with details of the round-table discussions. The programme was divided into the following sections: Anomalies of Binocular Vision; Orthoptic Therapy; Surgery; Other papers; Education of Orthoptists; Miotics.

There were 63 participants (who came from fourteen different countries), of which 32 were ophthalmologists and 31 orthoptists. Some 504 orthoptists attended the Congress.

The opening paper on Anomalies of Binocular Vision was given by Arthur Jampolsky (*San Francisco*), who pointed out that most patients suffering from strabismus possessed some form of “binocular vision” and that it was a mistake to use the term “binocular single vision” when what was really meant was “bi-foveal fixation”.

In one of the round-table discussions that followed the papers it was reassuring to hear persons of experience expressing the opinion that it was the greatest mistake to operate upon patients with fully accommodative convergent strabismus, that is to say, cases of convergent squint fully controlled by means of glasses both for distance and near fixation. A. Huber’s paper on the electrophysiology of the ocular muscles was clear, concise, and helpful, and well illustrated as was that of G. M. Bleeker on the subject of blow-out fractures. Montague Ruben gave a useful paper with J. W. Walker on the value of contact lenses in orthoptics and Kenneth Wybar described the various types of nystagmus met with in children and its clinical implication. J. Bagshaw’s description of vertical deviations met with in anisometropia was of interest.

There were several papers on abnormal retinal correspondence which showed that its eradication was not easy and in fact often impossible. In the discussion that followed most speakers agreed that where a small angle of squint exists with anomalous retinal correspondence of the harmonious type orthoptic treatment is contraindicated, since in such circumstances the patient has a remarkably useful type of binocularity. E. B. Marshall’s paper on the cover test was refreshing for its simplicity and its extreme practical value. Some new ideas on the treatment of convergence insufficiency by drug therapy were given by C. Raab and A. Sternberg-Raab (*Budapest*), oral

Neostigmine being given for simple and hypotonic convergence insufficiency, and a new miotic (Chinorto) for accommodatively compensated convergence insufficiency. Gunter von Noorden made an important distinction between amblyopia ex anopsia and strabismic and anisometropic amblyopia, the former being due to understimulation of the retina early in life as in congenital cataract or due to some intangible lesion, whereas in the latter the affected eye does participate in vision and its retinal receptors are stimulated in spite of its deviated position.

The methods of education and training of orthoptists in different countries were fully discussed; there is certainly much lack of uniformity at present and it is hoped that in time the training will conform more to something approaching a general pattern.

Proof reading of the papers was not as careful as it should have been and, as at most congresses, there was a tendency for too much to be attempted in too little time and for some degree of unnecessary overlapping of the subjects treated. The round-table discussions with free questions sent up by the assembled company were a great success. The organizers are to be congratulated on their pioneer effort and for their energy and far-sightedness in forming an International Association of Orthoptists.

Atlas of Strabismus. By G. K. VON NOORDEN and A. E. MAUMENEE. 1967. Pp. 188, 115 figs (29 col.). Mosby, St. Louis; Kimpton, London. (£7 17s. 6d.)

This is a most beautifully produced and concise presentation of the authors' diagnostic armamentarium for cases of strabismus.

The treatment of the subject is essentially divided into those parts of the examination concerned with sensory aspects and those concerned with the motor status of the patient. While there is little that is controversial in the work—indeed it is presumably intended to be a basic manual rather than an advanced treatise—the clarity of the text and the easily comprehended illustrations will make this work a valuable part of every ophthalmologist's library. It would certainly be of great help to the student wishing to become acquainted with the basic terminology and techniques in strabismus diagnosis. Unfortunately, the high price may preclude its becoming a students' routine textbook.

Even though some of the tests described are not in wide use in Great Britain, it is as well to have a work of reference such as this, so that when these techniques are referred to in the American literature we know exactly what they are. This is altogether a most welcome addition to the literature of strabismus.

Physiological and Methodical Basis of Pleoptics and Orthoptics (Physiologische und methodische Grundlagen der Pleoptik und Orthoptik). By K.-E. KRÜGER. 1967. Pp. 387, 145 figs, 8 tables. Thieme, Stuttgart. (£5 18s.)

This book, written mainly for orthoptists, gives a survey of physiological optics and binocular vision and its disturbances followed by a practical discussion on the examination and treatment of strabismic children. The theoretical parts of the book are perhaps too full of detail for its audience and some of the conclusions may be controversial, but the practical section gives valuable advice about modern treatment by pleoptics, the unocular training of the squinting eye, and about orthoptics, the art of inducing binocular vision. The methods of Cüppers and Bangerter are described in great detail. The principal techniques discussed for the re-education of the squinting eye include stimulation of the macula through foveal after-images and Haidinger's brushes, coordination exercises, partial or full occlusion and, in amblyopia combined with eccentric fixation, inverse occlusion of the amblyopic eye. The way is thus prepared for binocular orthoptic training. Surgery is said to be useful to make orthoptic exercises possible or to improve their results, a point of view differing somewhat from the orthodox consideration of orthoptics as supplementary to surgery.

Fluorescence Angiography of the Retina: Textbook and Atlas (Fluoreszenzangiographie der Retina. Lehrbuch und Atlas). By A. WESSING. 1968. Pp. 212, 120 figs, bibl. Thieme, Stuttgart. (DM. 84)

This pioneer volume on retinal fluorescence angiography deals with a subject which although only 7 years old has excited much interest and is of great clinical value. After a description of the

technical methods at present in use, the appearances in the normal eye are discussed; there follow the diagnostic indications for this method in a vast number of pathological conditions such as vascular diseases, the retinopathies, ocular inflammations, degenerations, and tumours. To collect these into a single volume is the only way to appreciate the scope and value of this new technique, not only in the diagnosis of ocular lesions but in the assessment of their progress and the estimation of the value of therapeutic measures. The book is abundantly and beautifully illustrated with successive photographs of the retina, the interval of each from the time of injection being indicated on an inset clock, and there is a complete bibliography. The clinic at Essen is to be congratulated.

Ability Structure and Loss of Vision. By J. JUURMAA. 1968. Pp. 128, bibl. American Foundation for the Blind, New York. (\$2)

The author analyses and discusses the results of a series of investigations carried out in Helsinki between 1960 and 1965 at the Institute of Occupational Health. The abilities of blind people were compared with those of the normal population, the results are analysed statistically, and implications of the findings are discussed.

Ocular Therapy. Complications and Management. Vol. 2. (Symposia of the Amer. Acad. Ophthal. Otolaryngol.). Edited by I. H. LEOPOLD. 1967. Pp. 139, figs, refs. Mosby, St. Louis (Kimpton, London). (99s.)

As at the First Symposium on Ocular Therapy, the subjects are of great importance but the quality of the contributions very variable. Leopold, as usual, is outstanding in the relevance and general excellence of his contribution, but the other great "names" are often disappointing. However, Kaufman gives a useful account of chemotherapy against viruses and Swan is interesting on the problems of drug interaction. This book should certainly be read by all ophthalmologists.

Physio-pathological Optics (*Ottica fisiopatologica*). By E. CONTINO. 1967. Pp. 235, 146 figs, 12 refs. Casa Editrice Prof. Riccardo Patron, Bologna. (L. 3,500)

In this book most of the ground usually covered by physiological optics is discussed in general and simple terms. After a brief introduction on the nature of light, there is a short summary of the geometrical optics of refraction followed by descriptions of the dioptric system of the eye with the aberrations encountered, of accommodation, and of the catoptric phenomena seen in the eye. A discussion on the theories of lenses to correct optical defects is followed by a chapter on the clinical methods used in the determination of refractive errors. The last chapter deals with physiological optics in its broader sense, including such topics as the light sense, the colour sense, visual perceptions, the visual field, binocular vision, fusion, ocular movements, and entoptic phenomena. These many questions are discussed in a simple way and the book is suitable for the clinical student.

Modern Problems in Ophthalmology. Vol. 7. Edited by R. DUFOUR, G. MEYER-SCHWICKERATH, L. FISON, and L. GUILLAUMAT. 1968. Pp. 364, 105 figs, 75 tables, bibl. Karger, Basel. (£10)

The proceedings of the 5th Symposium of the Jules Gonin Club held in association with the International Ophthalmological Congress at Munich in August, 1966, has now been published as the seventh volume of the series, "Modern Problems in Ophthalmology". The meeting was interesting and the report of it makes instructive reading. The main subject was that of modern developments in the diagnosis and treatment of tumours of the eye, particular attention being paid to such techniques as light-coagulation and radiation. There was also a discussion on the avoidance of drastic surgery in the treatment of detachment of the retina, and the dangers of the present trend in this direction were stressed. The value of light-coagulation was also considered not only in the closure of retinal holes but also in the treatment of such conditions as central serous retinopathy, while the steadily increasing use of cryosurgery in the treatment of retinal disease was fully discussed.