
The fact that the next Congress of the European Ophthalmological Society is to be held in Budapest has led Magda Radnót, the president-elect of the Congress, to edit a brochure giving the life-story of twelve of the most famous Hungarian ophthalmologists who were associated with the Medical Faculty of the University of Budapest, which incidentally celebrated its 200th anniversary in 1969. The series starts with János T. Fabini, who was appointed to one of the first chairs of ophthalmology in Europe in 1817 and wrote in Latin an early Hungarian textbook of ophthalmology, a book translated into several languages and widely used in Italy and Holland. It ends with such household names as those of Blaskovics and Imre, whose advances in ophthalmic plastic surgery are to be found in textbooks all over the world. The series of twelve short biographies, each illustrated with a portrait, forms a delightful introduction to the forthcoming Congress.


The improved education of the public about medical conditions promotes the need for information for patients who have cataracts. This book does much to explain the nature of cataracts and their treatment, and treats the details of post-operative management by answering rhetorical questions. As it is written in large print, the style is reassuring for the patient, and fears caused by common superstitions are allayed. The author himself adheres to the accepted modern concepts of cataract surgery. When the subject under discussion is controversial, such as the use of intraocular implants, the author cautiously refers the patient to his own doctor and maintains his style of reassurance throughout the text. The book is well written and can be highly recommended to patients who wish to know the reasons for their surgeons’ decisions in the treatment of cataracts.


This is an excellent review of current ophthalmic diagnostic techniques. It does not aim to describe and evaluate every author’s preference of many techniques. Bacteriology and radiology are excluded, but the specialist procedures of fluorescein angiography, ultrasonography, and electro-physiology are discussed and kept in perspective. The whole book is pervaded with a practical clinical approach which is both refreshing and stimulating. Useful clinical tips and observations abound, making the book invaluable for both the beginner and the experienced ophthalmologist. With such an individual approach there are many minor points that could be contested or even opposed, but this enhances rather than detracts from the value of the book.

It may seem odd to have the first chapter on the organization of the private office. This may well be of importance to the American internist about to embark on his private career, but it will be of little interest to the impoverished English registrar.

Notes

European Contact Lens Society of Ophthalmologists

I Scientific Congress, June, 1971

The I Scientific Congress of the European Contact Lens Society will be held at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, London, on June 2–4, 1971. The subjects for discussion will include kerato-