

The book is designed in a modern idiom with very wide margins. At the most only 43 per cent. of the page area contains print, and at the least only about 14 per cent. The book therefore seems more expensive than necessary, since one is paying a lot for the wide-open spaces. It is profusely illustrated with many very clear diagrams with long explanatory captions, and with many black-and-white and some colour photographs. One has, of course, to put up with American spelling, although it is a little difficult to accept "aberration" spelt consistently with two "b's" and one "r" as other than a mistake.

**Colour Blindness. An Evolutionary Approach.** By R. CRUZ-COKE. 1970. Pp. 156, 40 figs, bibl. Thomas, Springfield, Ill. (\$8.75)

The author has approached his subject from the point of view of "biological" evolution. To a large extent the work consists in a survey of the literature.

## Obituary

### Howard Vincent Coverdale, 1897–1971

Howard Coverdale, who was one of the most pleasant, companionable and likeable and, at the same time, most efficient of the ophthalmologists to be trained in Britain, subsequently became one of the foremost ophthalmic surgeons in New Zealand where his influence was immense.

Coverdale was born in Christchurch in the South Island of New Zealand. After leaving school where he became head-prefect, he learned to fly at Auckland and joined the R.A.F. in England in 1918. On his demobilization at the end of the war he went to Cambridge University and his versatility was immediately apparent in his becoming president of the Medical Society, president of the Heitiki Club (of New Zealand men at Cambridge), and a member of the Shakespeare Club of Caius College, and representing his college at tennis, golf, and hockey. His medical education was completed at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, where his athletic ability made him captain of the tennis and golf teams. His main interest, however, was ophthalmology, and for this reason he went through the residency at Moorfields Eye Hospital. Here he excited the greatest regard and affection; indeed, because of his surgical skill and personal qualities, he was one of the most popular residents the hospital has had. Despite the fact that he was pressed to remain in London, he decided to return to New Zealand, largely for reasons of health, and set up ophthalmic practice in Auckland.

Here, as would be expected, he prospered; but on the outbreak of the second world war he immediately enlisted in the army and, going overseas with the Third General Hospital, he was responsible for most of the ophthalmology in the New Zealand Division – and for many others – in the North African and Italian campaigns. Returning home in 1945, he maintained his interest in the Services by becoming chairman of the Medical Committee of New Zealand St. Dunstons with which he worked for many years.

His contributions to our specialty were considerable and, in addition to numerous papers on a wide variety of subjects in various medical journals, he was editor of the *Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of New Zealand* for 10 years, an associate editor of *Ophthalmic Literature*, and a member of the International Editorial Board of the *American Quarterly Review of Ophthalmology*. In the profession in his own country the esteem in which he was held was shown by his occupying the posts of president of the Ophthalmological Society of New Zealand and of the Auckland Clinical Society. Outside his profession his interests in the arts, architecture, and the cultivation of trees and shrubs occupied much of his attention, as well as racing and golf. His death brings sorrow to his many friends in Britain and in his own country where an immense blank is created. To his widow, Margaret, our sincere sympathy is extended.