Statistical Analysis

No mention of the odds against mere chance as the explanation for the observed differences seems to have been made.

UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, EYE PAVILION,
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Yours faithfully,
C. I. PHILLIPS

May 11, 1973

References

DOBREE, J. H., and TAYLOR, E. (1973) *Brit. J. Ophthalmol.*, **57**, 73
EDERER, F. (1973) *Arch. Ophthalm. (Chicago)*, **89**, 1 (Editorial)

To the Editor of the British Journal of Ophthalmology

SIR,—The reason why a statistical analysis was not given is that it is not known if the disease existed in comparable severity in the treated and untreated cases; many of the local and general factors influencing the prognosis are still unknown. It is for this reason that the word controls was put in inverted commas.

As Professor Phillips states, a satisfactory control is to use one eye chosen at random, but this depends on the symmetry of the disease in paired eyes, a fact which has only recently been shown in our own unit (Taylor and others, 1973) after the present paper was sent for publication.

What we have done is to make the third, and we hope not the final, report on the results of a continuous series which now includes some 200 cases of proliferative diabetic retinopathy. I believe these results to be encouraging.

113 HARLEY STREET,
LONDON, W. 1.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. DOBREE
ENID TAYLOR

July 17, 1973

Reference

TAYLOR, E., ADNITT, P. I., and JENNINGS, A. M. C. (1973) *Quart. J. Med.*, **42**, 305

Book reviews

Modern Trends in Ophthalmology. Vol. 5. Edited by A. SORSBY and S. MILLER. 1973. Pp. 206, figs, refs. Butterworths, London. (£8)

This handy little volume of only 206 pages consists of a series of articles written by different contributors upon subjects in which they have been particularly interested.

The subject matter is divided into three separate parts: (1) Diagnostic; (2) Clinical; and (3) Treatment, ending with an excellent special review article on herpes simplex and allied disorders by Crews and Patterson.