The following day was occupied with a visit to Terneuzen in Southern Holland. Dr. Binkhorst had asked us to arrive by 8.15 a.m. The previous evening at Leiden was a late one and the journey from Rotterdam to Terneuzen took 2½ hours! Dr. Binkhorst compromised and we arrived as a party of twelve at 8.45 a.m. For those who went it was a most rewarding day, as we were able to study the problem of intraocular lenses in depth. A special operating and demonstration programme was laid on for us by Doctors Binkhorst and Worst. We watched both surgeons operate in their different ways and saw patients with intraocular lenses in situ. Many slides were shown to demonstrate the complications and the modifications which have been made to the lenses during the past 13 years.

If we were not convinced about the value of intraocular lenses we were all impressed by the critical way in which they have been developed by Doctors Binkhorst and Worst and by the surgical talent of Dr. Binkhorst. We drove to Antwerp for the evening meal and unfortunately had to make a rather rapid departure as the coach driver wished to be back in Rotterdam at a reasonable hour—in fact about 1.30 a.m.

Friday was spent at Nijmegen Catholic University Eye Hospital, our host being Prof. van den Heuvel. The scientific programme was impressive; after a series of lectures we had a demonstration of A and B scan ultrasonography and a visit to the central animal laboratory of the Medical Faculty. We enjoyed cocktails at the University and left for Rotterdam at 6.30 p.m.

As on the previous week, we entertained a group of our hosts to dinner on Saturday evening. On Sunday we left Rotterdam for London, and after an uneventful journey dispersed to our homes for a rest — to which some of us are still looking forward!

We are all most grateful to Mr. Roper-Hall and the Faculty of Ophthalmologists for honouring us with the opportunity to participate in the tour and to the various Hospital Funds which provided invaluable financial assistance; special praise and thanks are due to Miss Mary Morris for labours without which the tour could not possibly have come to fruition. Our hosts without exception were splendid. They worked hard to provide interesting and varied programmes: their enthusiasm was unending and hospitality exceedingly generous. We were given the impression that a visit on a regular basis, say every 6 years, would be a welcome idea. We are particularly indebted to Prof. Bleeker and his secretary for many of the arrangements in The Netherlands.

Obituary

Alex E. Krill, 1928—1972

Our readers will be sad to learn of the premature death of Alex E. Krill on December 8, 1972, in an aircrash in Chicago on his return from lecturing at the National Eye Institute in Washington. He was without doubt one of the most promising of American ophthalmologists; he became assistant professor in the University of Chicago in 1961 and professor and director of clinical eye research in 1968. In his short life he was the author of some eighty papers dealing with many diseases of the eye with particular emphasis on hereditary conditions, and published the first of a projected three-volume work on hereditary diseases of the retina and choroid in 1972. His professional merits were well recognized; he received the Honor Medal of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology in 1967, a Certificate of Merit for the presentation of the most meritorious paper at the meeting of the Academy in 1970, and the Fisher Prize of the Chicago Ophthalmological Society in 1971.

Apart from his local activities (he was Secretary-Treasurer of the Chicago Ophthalmological Society), he was Secretary of the International Committee for Neuro-ophthalmology and Vice-President of the International Society for Clinical Electrophotinography.

It is indeed sad that one of our colleagues so full of potential should be so tragically lost.