

Symposium on Contact Lenses. (New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology, 1972). 1973. Pp. 296, figs, bibl. Mosby, St. Louis; Kimpton, London. (£13.25)

This well-produced book comprises the papers given at the 1972 meeting of the New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology, and also contains the discussion between members of the panel upon most of the topics covered at the meeting. Although the subject may deter the specialist reader from purchasing the book since it presents material that is already covered in the literature, it may well provide a rapid way of bringing the non-specialist ophthalmologist up to date on the more basic aspects of contact lens practice. The discussion, whilst entertaining, gives the reader a rapid insight into personalities and the verbatim answers should not be taken too seriously.

Notes

Microsurgical Instrumentation Research Association

I International Symposium, London, May 5, 1973

The first International Round-Table Symposium on microscopes and microsurgical instrumentation, conducted under the auspices of the Microsurgical Instrumentation Research Association (MICRA), was held in the Marcus Beck Library at the Royal Society of Medicine, London, on 5 May, 1973.

Of the 22 people present, twelve were ophthalmic surgeons, the others being engineering experts, and E.N.T. and neuro-surgeons.

South-Western Ophthalmological Society

Bristol, June 8, 1973

A meeting of the South-Western Ophthalmological Society was held on June 8, 1973, in memory of the late Dr. A. M. G. Campbell, a well-known Bristol neurologist with a particular interest in neuro-ophthalmology.

The meeting was opened by the President and the first paper on Hereditary Optic Atrophies by Prof. Wallace Foulds reviewed the clinical patterns of this group and the efficacy of hydroxocobalamin. Results in Leber's optic atrophy were encouraging and cysteine supplements were also advocated. Professor Refsum gave an erudite and interesting review of the rare disease that bears his name. Dr. Ian McDonald presented an informative paper on the diagnostic use of the patterned visual evoked response in demyelination of the optic nerves, and reported results obtained when working with Dr. A. M. Halliday from the National Hospital. This was followed by a paper on optic atrophy in Friedreich's ataxia by Dr. Langton Hewer of Bristol.

The afternoon session was opened by Prof. David Cogan of the Howe Laboratory, Boston, with a paper presenting thirty cases of "Paralysis of Down Gaze". The main group comprised patients with variants of Parkinson's disease including the Steele-Richardson Syndrome; other groups included inverse Parinaud's syndrome, choreo-athetosis, and a category of miscellaneous causes. The pathology in some cases suggested lesions in the region of the IVth nerve. Horizontal gaze defects were described by Mr. M. D. Sanders with particular emphasis on lesions of the pontine paramedian reticular formation. Impaired velocity of conjugate gaze movements was demonstrated as an early sign in one case with a metastasis in this region. Prof. Stanley Thompson of Iowa City presented a paper on the diagnostic value of pharmacological tests in the diagnosis of Horner's syndrome, the dilated pupil, and Adie's tonic pupil.

The meeting was concluded by a discussion on disorders of the ocular muscles with papers on the histochemistry of the ocular muscles (Dr. D. Harriman), ocular myotonia (Dr. Bryan Ashworth), and the ocular myopathies (Dr. Liversedge).