Foreword

P. G. WATSON

These are the proceedings of the Third Cambridge Ophthalmological Symposium held in the School of Pythagoras, St. John’s College, Cambridge, on September 3 and 4, 1973, under the chairmanship of Mr. T. Keith Lyle.

These symposia were started as a result of contributions given by the patients, relations, friends, and colleagues of Miss Marjorie Ferrers Taylor who had practised ophthalmology for many years in Cambridge and had collaborated in studies on the effect of irradiation on the eye before she was disabled by the long illness from which she died.

Much of the life of ophthalmologists and most of the life of orthoptists is spent investigating and treating squint and we have, in the past, based our treatments on inadequate and sketchy experimental evidence and on the often unproved observations of our predecessors. Recent advances in experimental techniques have given us a much clearer understanding of the physiology and the psychology of vision, not only in the eye itself but also in the binocular pathways and the cortical organization of visual stimuli. These findings can now be directly related to the production of amblyopia and may well change our approach to its treatment. Equally, our treatment of strabismus may be affected by recent advances in the understanding of the physiology of ocular muscles and our increasing knowledge of the control of ocular movements.

In the investigation and management of strabismus in humans there are still many areas of controversy and lines of treatment are far from being clear cut.

It is the purpose of this symposium to bring together physiologists, psychologists, biologists, ophthalmologists, and orthoptists in this small group so that each may focus on the other’s problems, to discuss their work and, perhaps, change their preformed ideas to the ultimate benefit of the patient.