
This is an admirably produced volume and reflects the greatest credit upon the author, artist, and publisher. It contains 38 plates, each plate consisting of about 10 drawings, mostly in colour. The drawings are all admirably executed and the colour reproduction is of a high grade of excellence. The letterpress consists of an introduction, chapters on technique and methods of examination, and a description of each drawing, with a few clinical details added in the case of pathological conditions. The chapters on technique and methods are very sketchy, and will not prove of great assistance to anyone beginning the use of the slit-lamp. These chapters might, with advantage, be further amplified, and more particularly a fuller description of the apparatus and of the methods employed to obtain the different forms of light bundles should be given. There is no mention made of the employment of contact lenses for the examination of the angle of the chamber and of the ciliary region.

The invention of the slit-lamp, which we owe to the genius of Professor Allvar Gullstrand, of Upsala, has opened up an entirely new field of investigation in ophthalmology. The method has already yielded some very interesting results, and promises to clear up many an obscure corner in the normal and pathological anatomy of the living eye. Gullstrand first brought the slit-lamp to public notice in 1911. The earlier publications of various observers referred to improvements in the apparatus and to isolated histological and pathological observations. During the war the whole subject suffered a temporary eclipse, and only recently has the matter been brought forward again. The literature of the subject is already assuming large dimensions, and the work now before us represents the first attempt to furnish a connected and systematic description of the normal and pathological appearances of the human eye as seen by this apparatus.

The slit-lamp, in its essence, is an instrument so devised as to enable an observer to project a very narrow beam of intense light upon that part of the eye which he wishes to examine. This indicates one of the limitations of the method. The area illuminated must, of necessity, be very small, and consequently the time required to examine any given structure, such as the whole cornea or iris, is correspondingly great. Owing to the high intensity of the local illumination and the absence of any aberrant
light it is possible to examine this area by means of some form of corneal microscope, using relatively high powers of magnification up to 60 diameters and even 100 diameters under exceptionally favourable conditions. All parts of the eye, up to the retina, can thus be rendered accessible to minute examination, and it can therefore, be understood how valuable this method may be. To show with what detail the parts may be studied it is stated that the individual cells of the endothelial lining of Descemet's membrane can be seen, and that the nerve supply of the cornea can be traced to its minutest ramifications.

The many drawings of the normal and pathological cornea are of great interest. The peculiarities of the lamination and suture arrangements of the lens are well shown. Many of the forms of cataract are illustrated, and it can be seen how, in different forms, the opacification starts from different layers of the lens and assumes differing shapes and appearances.

The structure of the vitreous is perhaps the most interesting revelation. The supporting fibrillar meshwork can be seen, and in most cases apparently many vestigial remains. Some fibrotic remains of hyaloid arteries, are extraordinarily tortuous. The method will be specially valuable for the detection of the earliest changes in intraocular inflammations, more particularly for detecting the dust-like opacities in very early sympathetic ophthalmitis.

Later developments, adumbrated in this volume but since perfected, will render the retina itself accessible to this form of examination.

The value of the book is not diminished by the probability that in the light of future investigations many of the conclusions now reached will be modified or altered.

While recognizing the difficulties of translating such a work as this, owing to the necessity of finding new words and phrases to describe hitherto unknown appearances, it must be stated that the work of translation has not been well done, and the proof reading has been careless. Too many German words have been merely transliterated, e.g., inhomogeneous. Words are given meanings which they do not usually bear, as, for instance, in speaking of Nernst and gas-filled incandescent electric lamps the word "filament" is constantly used where "filament" would be more readily understood. The use of the word "tubercular" where "tuberculous" is meant is perhaps too common to be specially mentioned, and following the German construction the use of the split infinitive is rather the rule than the exception.

In many instances no attempt has been made to adopt an English form of construction, and the following extract will serve to show
how curiously a German sentence may sound when translated literally:—"A further typic point of differentiation is furnished by the before-mentioned, varied-sized, large, scatteringly deposited droplets and delicate fibres, which are lymphocytes, or possibly amorphous clumps and fibres, and therefore found only on the posterior surface of the cornea."

Traité Complet de Thérapeutique Oculaire. By A. Darier.


This book, while naturally it embodies the author's previously published "Leçons de Thérapeutique Oculaire" (1901), is on a more ambitious scale than the earlier work. In the preface it is stated that the principal criticism of the latter has been that it was too personal. The present volume corrects that fault—if fault it was—and aims at "studying in detail all the methods, old and new. . . ."

It is only necessary to mention that there are 727 large pages in order to show the measure of the author's industry. There are indications, it is true, that the work might have been shortened without great loss of efficiency, but, since, taken as a whole, the book constitutes probably the most complete up-to-date treatise on ocular therapeutics, one admits that a certain amount of repetition and the inclusion of a good deal of what is general, and not merely ocular, therapy, adds to its usefulness and certainly to its readability.

In a book by Darier one naturally expects to learn much about biological therapy, and, although we in this country may not be so enthusiastic as the author, his account of the biological method from the therapeutic and from the diagnostic standpoint is welcome. It is exceedingly good.

The work is divided into two parts, the first, entitled "General Therapy," occupying 300 pages, the second, "Special Therapy." It must be understood, however, that while the first part is called "General" it bears reference, most of the time, to ocular diseases. Of this first part, the first chapter deals with the importance of precise diagnosis, the second is a supremely interesting account of biological therapy, the third discusses the various methods of administration of medicaments, namely, "Ingestion Entérale" by the stomach or rectum, and "Injection Parentérale"—hypodermic, intramuscular, intraspinal, subdural, intraventricular, and intravenous; and also deals with subconjunctival injections. The fourth and fifth chapters are concerned with the general medication employed in eye diseases. What the author has to say about mercurial and arsenical therapy constitutes a small treatise in
Chapter six deals with the action of heat and cold, with Bier's method, electrotherapy, radiotherapy, and massage of the eye. The seventh chapter gives details of local applications, anaesthetics, mydriatics, miotics, and so on.

The second part of the book takes up the various diseases of the eye in turn, and need not here be summarised. Actual operations are not fully described. Thus, in dealing with senile cataract, the author says, "The technique of the operation will be found in every treatise on ophthalmic surgery, but many little details can here be discussed." For example, operation on one eye when the other is healthy, and when it has incipient cataract; the question of operation on both eyes at one time; preliminary iridectomy or not, and so forth. The complications of operations are also considered. In fact, nearly everything, except the operation itself, finds a place. The reviewer, however, has not been able to find in this chapter any definite reference to pre-operative bacteriological examination of the conjunctiva. Conjunctival and other contra-indications are mentioned, and also their treatment preliminary to operative interference. The nearest the author seems to come to this matter is the following sentence:—"When one is quite certain that the eye is in good condition for operation, it becomes necessary to ascertain whether the patient suffers from any source of infection." The chapter on glaucoma is good. The etiology, the classification of the different forms, and the medical treatment are considered. The author is strong on the discrepancies which occur in manual estimation of tension, and he favours the Schiötz tonometer. Diagnostic difficulties are not a strong point in this chapter, and one may assume that the author did not wish to occupy too much space with this subject in a book dealing with therapeutics. A similar explanation would account for the apparent omission referred to above in connection with cataract. The principal operative measures referred to are iridectomy, the Lagrange and Elliot operations, iridotasis, cycloidalysis, and sclerotomy. One gathers, rather by inference than otherwise, that the author is, in the main, an adherent to the first-named operation.

The book, as one would expect, contains only a very few illustrations. There are, on the other hand, a number of detailed prescriptions in the text, and the reviewer thinks it would be wise for the British reader to confirm the details of drugs and dosage in accordance with the British Pharmacopoeia. This is especially necessary since the text suffers very greatly from typographical errors.

With regard to general make up, the volume is paper covered and therefore fragile in use. There is a paginated index at the beginning, a summary of contents at the heading of each chapter.
a repetition of the chapter headings at the end of the volume (without, strangely enough, any reference to the pages at which the chapters commence); also a "Repertoire Memento" giving, under the names of diseases, the pages upon which these are discussed, and, finally, an "Index Medicamentarius," giving the characters of each drug and, sometimes, the dosage.

Darier's treatise can be very confidently recommended to British ophthalmologists. It contains an enormous amount of information on treatment, in which branch Darier is an enthusiast and past master, and it is elegantly written.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT ON LIGHTS ON VEHICLES

To the Editor of The British Journal of Ophthalmology

SIR,—Although hardly a suitable subject for a long argument, as the author of the Annotation on the Interim Report of the Committee of the Ministry of Transport on Lights on Vehicles, I should like to reply to some remarks made by your correspondent, Dr. Ernest Thomson, on the question of turning out or dimming of headlights when one car is passing another. No doubt, on a very dark night or in the rain the turning out of the headlight is both dangerous and useless, but on a fine night when there is a certain amount of light, the practice is undoubtedly of service. Both on dark nights and light nights the dimming of lights is much more satisfactory, but switches which dim the lights are not fitted to all cars, as I suggested they might quite well be. All these methods are not without strong objections, and the suggestion is made merely as a temporary measure to mitigate the danger until such a time that properly-designed lamps have come into general use.

Yours faithfully,

M. S. MAYOU.

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