BOOK NOTICES

The Ophthalmology of General Practice. By MALCOLM HEPBURN. Cassell & Co., 1922. Price, 12s. 6d.

This recently published book is intended, as the title indicates, solely to help the general practitioner to diagnose and treat the minor affections of the eyes; also to assist him to appreciate the more serious diseases and injuries, and to recognise those cases which he feels justified in treating himself, and those which he considers should be handed over to the care of an ophthalmic surgeon.

In the first chapter the various methods of examination of the eye are given in detail. Next follow chapters on urgent cases, and various drugs used in ophthalmic work. A short chapter deals with operations, but these are not gone into fully, because the author does not advise the general practitioner to undertake those of an intra-ocular nature; a description, however, is given of some of the minor operations.

Affections of the conjunctiva are described at some length, and much useful information as regards diagnosis and treatment is given. Chapters follow on diseases of the cornea and iris. The symptoms and signs of glaucoma are clearly and concisely stated, making the prompt recognition of this serious disease easier for the practitioner. Space is devoted to cataract, ocular injuries, sympathetic ophthalmia, squint, errors of refraction, etc.

The more important external diseases are beautifully illustrated in colour, and the book is printed in large, clear type.

Medical men engaged in general practice should get this book; they will certainly find it most useful and helpful, especially those who are practising in country districts.


Opinions among ophthalmic surgeons as to the technique of cataract extraction differ widely in almost all steps of the operation. The author of this work is an apostle of irrigation; his work is addressed, principally we presume, to the profession in India, where cataract is rife and where any surgeon can soon obtain a large number of cases to deal with, a number far larger than is likely to fall to the lot of his English brother.

Space does not permit us to review his work at length. He sums up the theoretical case against irrigation, describes carefully his own technique and his modification in the nozzle, insists on the urgency of absolute asepsis, and gives at length the details of the operation he performs.
In his chapter on vitreous escape are inserted the results of 1,000 operations by his method, in which the total incidence of vitreous escape was 3.8 per cent.; of these cases of vitreous escape, nearly half occurred before any attempt was made to irrigate the anterior chamber; in the remaining cases one per cent. followed the use of capsule forceps and 0.9 per cent. the use of the irrigator. It remains to be stated that atropin is instilled into the eye the night before the operation, unless its use is contra-indicated, so that the majority of his operations are performed under full dilatation of the pupil, and that he prefers to open the capsule of the lens with the point of the knife in passing across the anterior chamber; his rule for after-treatment is to "let well alone."

The book is well printed and the illustrations are good.

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NOTES

We regret to announce the death of Mr. E. H. E. Stack, the well-known ophthalmologist of Bristol. Further notes of his distinguished career will be published in our next number.

At the recent graduation ceremony the degree M.Ch. was conferred on Thomas H. Bickerton, Lecturer in Ophthalmology. When Mr. Bickerton, two years ago, retired from the post of Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary he was appointed Consulting Surgeon. His services to the Hospital were recognized by the conferment of the honour of the Presidency of the Royal Infirmary at its last meeting.

Miss Ida C. Mann has been appointed to the Henry George Plimmer Fellowship in Pathology.

Miss Euphan Maxwell has been appointed Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, in the place of Mr. J. B. Story, resigned. Mr. Story has accepted the post of Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Hospital.

Mr. K. S. Laud has been appointed Resident Ophthalmic Officer to the General Infirmary, Leeds.

Dr. Rene Rousseau has been appointed Chef de Clinique to the School of Medicine, Angers.

The National Ophthalmological Congress of Spain will take place September 19-24 next.