Book reviews


After an introduction of 2 pages a series of photographs follows showing sections of the brain with the corresponding computed tomography (CT) scan. Three planes are studied—the horizontal, 25° from the horizontal plane, and 35° from the horizontal plane. The anatomical slices are well labelled and the orbital sections adequate. Unfortunately, technological advances have meant that the CT scan pictures are now outdated, and the additional dimensions obtained by coronal and sagittal scanning are also omitted. This book, though printed in 1977, is already out of date, and an updated version would seem necessary to provide an adequate atlas. M. D. Sanders


This report on a glaucoma symposium held at Würzburg in 1974 contains 24 papers covering a wide range of topics related to glaucoma diagnosis and therapy. All contributions are in German, with English summaries. T. J. Ffytche

Obituary

A. B. Nutt, LL.D, MSc, MB, FRCS

Mr A. B. Nutt, formerly consultant ophthalmic surgeon to Sheffield United Hospitals, died on 27 February. He was 79.

Albert Boswell Nutt, affectionately known by everyone as Bertie, was born in Sheffield on 7 July 1898. He was educated at King Edward VII school in Sheffield and entered Sheffield University to read physiology and medicine. His studies were interrupted by service in the eastern Mediterranean during the first world war with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, but his natural aptitude for science and medicine nevertheless enabled him to graduate with first-class honours in 1923, with gold medals in both clinical medicine and surgery. He soon concentrated on his chosen subject of ophthalmology and in 1927 was appointed honorary ophthalmic surgeon to the Sheffield Royal Infirmary. It is not generally known that as long ago as 1932 he and his pathologist colleague, Cecil Paine, were the earliest successful pioneers in treating eye infection by local applications of penicillin, which had been prepared in the infirmary. He never lost interest in the wider aspects of ophthalmology and its relationship to general medicine.

His appointment in 1938 as ophthalmologist to the Sheffield Children's Hospital led to his overriding interest in ocular motility and strabismus. A pioneer in this country of modern surgical techniques in strabismus, he was a meticulous surgeon whose excellent results led to patients with difficult mobility problems being referred from a wide area. He founded the Sheffield Orthoptic School and was chairman of the British Orthoptic Board from 1958 to 1970, guiding its reorganisation into the British Orthoptic Council. He was always a great supporter of the orthoptic profession.

His work on ocular motility led to his appointment as Hunterian professor of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1954. The college granted him an honorary fellowship, and he served it as examiner, representing the Faculty of Ophthalmologists on the college council for 5 years. His wise councils were recognised by the Faculty of Ophthalmologists, which elected him president from 1963 to 1965.

He was vice-president of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, but his greatest love was perhaps the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress, of which he was Master in 1961 and 1962. It was the enthusiasm and wisdom of Bertie and the council members of his generation that guided the Oxford Congress through a period of rapid growth to the international recognition that it enjoys today, maintaining and extending the unique atmosphere of friendship that is the hallmark of that congress. His friendships extended throughout the world, aided by travelling widely even in the days before easy intercontinental flying.

His activities were not confined to ophthalmology, for he was a member of council, court, and convocation of the University of Sheffield, being chairman of convocation from 1964 to 1967, and in 1974 his services were recognised by the grant of the degree of doctor of laws. He was a member, and eventually chairman, of the venerable charitable organisation, the Sheffield Town Trust. He was also a prominent Freemason, joining the University Lodge in his days as a student and eventually holding many offices, including Assistant Provincial Grand Master of the province of Yorkshire West Riding.

Bertie was one of the most widely loved of Sheffield citizens and was one of our leading Ophthalmologists. Yet he remained essentially a kind, humane, and humble man, keeping close to nature in his large garden, which occupied much of his thoughts and his meagre spare time.

A.S.