to produce a work which faithfully fulfils Gifford's original purpose and gives excellent accounts of the more recent diagnostic procedures, such as ultrasound and fluorescein angiography, together with informative sections on the basic sciences in ophthalmoscopy, pharmacology, and genetics. The great strength of the book, however, lies in its medical ophthalmology chapters, and there is a wealth of information on some of the rarer diseases and little-known syndromes of childhood. Numerous tables provide diagnostic data, and at the end of each chapter are a number of key references. The illustrations are in the main excellent, though some of the smaller colour pictures lack definition.

Though he will find a clear exposition of glaucoma, the younger specialist ophthalmologist will have to turn to other textbooks for detailed accounts of more local eye conditions such as uveitis, retinal detachment, or cataract, and for the surgery of these conditions.

This is a most interesting and informative book, and should do much to stimulate interest in ophthalmology.

J. H. DOBREE

Correspondence

Adjunct to tonometry

SIR, I wonder if I could bring to your attention a useful adjunct to tonometry. In cases where one suspects that an eye may be infected, particularly with a virus disease, it is always rather unpleasant to have to use an applanation tonometer because one is well aware of the considerable difficulty in sterilising it afterwards with real confidence.

Back in the 1950s, I recollect that someone in the USA described a device called a Tonofilm which was to be used under a Schiotz tonometer, but I am not aware that this ever became widely used. I find, however, if one takes a small piece of Cling-Film of the sort that is sold in ordinary grocers' shops to wrap sandwiches, etc., one can in fact wrap the end of an applanation tonometer and thus carry out tonometry insulated from the conjunctival secretions. It is necessary to make sure that the film is smoothed down accurately on the plane surface at the contact head of the applanation prism, otherwise a high reading is obtained. If, however, the film is smoothed down carefully the reading appears to be exactly the same as obtained with no film in position. I hope that this little tip may be of assistance to people working particularly in casualty departments, where the danger of cross-infection with virus conditions is sometimes a problem. If it is wished to sterilise the film it can be cut into small squares packed between layers of paper and autoclaved in the usual manner.

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Notes

Services to the visually handicapped

A cross-section of workers with visually handicapped persons met at Coventry on the 21–22 October 1978 and resolved to form a single new organisation of individuals