BOOK NOTICES


Major R. E. Wright’s report of the Government Ophthalmic Hospital at Madras for 1921 makes interesting reading. The hospital contains 170 beds and the average number of patients a day is 266.47. Consequently, as usual, the surplus sick have to be accommodated in the verandahs. 178 medical students underwent training during the period under review, not to mention post-graduates, etc. It is satisfactory to note that the Poor Fund (supported by voluntary contributions) had a substantial balance at the beginning of the year. The primary object of the Fund is to supply spectacles and to pay transport charges for the destitute.

During the year there were 1,508 cataract operations. Various methods of removing the lens were adopted—the Madras operation with and without iridectomy, linear extraction, Barraquer’s method and Smith’s expression. The “partial success” and “partial failures” are higher than they would be if patients could be kept in hospital for a longer time, but they usually leave from the tenth to the fourteenth day, and refuse needling. There were 8 cases of primary and 12 of secondary infection. Operations with incomplete conjunctival flap is a distinct advantage if time is no object. A very modified approval is expressed of Barraquer’s method, which in 56 cases yielded 38 “successes,” 6 “partial successes,” 9 “partial failures,” and 3 “failures.” In 8 of the cases there was loss of vitreous. Barraquer’s apparatus has not been found to work well in the climate of Madras.

Glaucoma is treated by Elliot’s operation, the only exception being acute secondary glaucoma due to swelling of the cataractous lens, in which a complete broad peripheral iridectomy is made. A general anaesthetic is used when possible in these cases, and the results are very good. Trephining is also performed for staphyloma, usually combined with radial cauterization or conjunctival flap treatment of protuberant scar tissue, and is also adopted in many cases of extensive leucoma adherens following ulcer serpens. Some cases are trephined after cataract extraction from a prophylactic point of view. Other operations mentioned include excision of the lacrimal sac (224), Heisrath’s operation for trachoma (79), St. Mark’s Hospital operation for trichiasis (39), operations on accessory sinuses (16), and exenterations (8).

Some interesting remarks are made about the books and specimens contained in the Elliot School of Ophthalmology.
The report ends with an account of certain diseases, as keratomalacia, malarial amblyopia, and coloured pictures are given of a case of extensive sub-hyaloid haemorrhage in a lad of 16 years suffering from malaria. Encephalitis lethargica, Mooren's ulcer, the fundus changes of Osler's disease, the serum treatment of trachoma, retinitis proliferans, leprous iritis, retinitis punctata albuginea, syphilitic sclero-keratitis, thrombosis of the central vein following pregnancy are described in the report, which reflects credit upon Major R. E. Wright and all concerned in its production.

S. S.

**Oftalmologia Tropical.** By LIEUT.-COL. R. H. ELLIOT. Edicion Española de la Revista Cubana de Oftalmologia. Translated by Dr. F. M. Fernandez. 8vo 39 pp. + 547, with 123 figures in the text. Habana, Cuba. The Twentieth Century Press. 1922.

The English original of this work was reviewed in our columns in Vol. IV, p. 532. We suppose that its general characters are familiar to our readers. It has already been translated into French, the Spanish translation is to hand, and we understand that a German translation is forthcoming.

The Spanish edition is enriched by a prologue of 18 pages by the doyen of Spanish ophthalmology, the late Dr. J. Santos Fernandez, whose death in August of last year will be fresh in the minds of English ophthalmologists; in this an interesting comparison is drawn between the experience gained by Elliot in India, and that of the author of the foreword in his 45 years' residence in Cuba.

We have nothing but praise for the way in which the translator has performed his part. He has given a faithful rendering into Spanish of the original, and his only error that we have detected is a minor one on page 1, where Kipling's Clapham is printed as Chapman, possibly a printer's slip. The illustrations have come out very well for the most part; printing and paper are good, and the work in its Spanish form is unusually well got up.

R. R. JAMES.


In the present edition of this work a new section on ophthalmology has been contributed by Mr. Griffith. As stated in the preface to the first edition, the object of this volume is to set forth the results, and particularly the end results, of various methods of
treatment, and to furnish data by means of which, apart from the question of treatment, the physician may seek to arrive at an accurate forecast of what will probably happen to the individual patient. In seeking to attain this very desirable object, the editor points out that the only possible method is to give authoritative guidance by quoting statistics. As is only natural in a work of this condensed type, not much space can be spared for ophthalmology. The author of this section has elected to deal with cataract, glaucoma, interstitial keratitis and myopia. The articles in the main give a fair straightforward account of the subjects as treated from the point of view of the general practitioner.

We notice that in the article on interstitial keratitis the author states that the intraocular tension is raised in a few cases, and that in these keratectasia is to be feared. The extreme rarity of such an occurrence in interstitial keratitis renders any mention of it in a book of this type inadvisable. The bibliographies appended should either have been omitted or made fuller and more authoritative.

The book should prove of value to the busy general practitioner.

CORRESPONDENCE

GERMAN OPHTHALMOLOGICAL LITERATURE

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Sir,—In justice to Julius Springer will you allow me space to say that I have received an apologetic letter from him acknowledging that I was charged too much for my first copy of Vol. XLVII of the Jahresbericht, and explaining how this came about? He says, "This occurrence is a very disagreeable one to me"; he has asked me to return the spare copy to the Hirschwald'sche Buchhandlung, and has undertaken to defray the cost and to return to me the excess money. I may say that I have sent back the spare copy and have asked him to hold the sum in question against the cost of Vols. XLV and XLVI, which I have ordered and which I hope will soon be out.

I am, Sir, Yours truly,

R. R. James.

London.