

Vogt points out that it is by no means clear that the arc-lamp is free from risk. It is possible that it may injure the lens. In all cases the narrow beam must be used.

Rabbits' eyes have been exposed without injury for several hours to the full beam of a slit-lamp furnished with an arc-lamp, but it is not certain that the human lens would be equally tolerant. The examination of the retina with the slit-lamp is useful for research, but is almost outside the scope of clinical work. In certain cases of doubtful tumour of the choroid it has proved useful.

The drawings illustrating this lecture have in the main been made at home in the evening from rough sketches, and in consequence cannot be regarded as absolutely accurate. In some cases they have been corrected by subsequent examination of the patient, but lack of time has not permitted this to be done in all cases.

COUNCIL OF BRITISH OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

Administration of Optical Benefits under the National Insurance Act

A brief account of the steps taken by the Council with regard to the above appeared in the February number of the journal.

On May 15 last a conference was held at the house of the Royal Society of Medicine with representatives of the British Medical Association. It was agreed to appoint a joint committee to consider the question.

This joint committee made the following recommendations:

(a) That the so-called "Optical Benefit" shall be designated "Ophthalmic Benefit."

Ophthalmic benefit would include examination and prescription for spectacles, if required, and such operative treatment and advice as can be given at a single consultation at the consulting room. A report, when necessary, shall be given for the guidance of the private practitioner.

(b) That in order to ensure the satisfactory working of the proposed scheme, it is essential that the insured members of every approved society, should in any case of ocular disorder or visual defect, apply to their insurance practitioner.

(c) If the insurance practitioner considers the case one requiring special advice or treatment, he should give the applicant a certificate which would enable him to consult a specialist at a reduced fee, and, at the same time, a list of the ophthalmic medical

practitioners in the district in which he resides who are willing to see him for such a fee.

(d) A list of ophthalmic medical practitioners qualified and willing to see insured members of approved societies at a consultation fee of £1 1s. should be prepared in accordance with the following principles :

(i) That he has held hospital or other appointments affording special opportunities for acquiring special skill and experience of the kind required for the performance of the service rendered, and has had actual recent practice in performing the service rendered or services of a similar character, or

(ii) That he has had special academic or post-graduate study of a subject which comprises the service rendered, and has had actual practice as aforesaid, or

(iii) That he is generally recognized by other practitioners in the area as having special proficiency and experience in a subject which comprises the service rendered.

(e) That a list be prepared of opticians who are willing to supply optical appliances prescribed by medical practitioners for insured members of approved societies in accordance with an agreed schedule of charges.

(f) In the event of the surplus funds of an approved society being insufficient to allow of its paying the specialist's reduced fee of £1 1s. for consultation, the patient himself will be required to furnish any amount additional to that which the approved society is able to grant for this purpose.

These recommendations were approved by the Council and forwarded to the Ministry of Health, and a reply has been received from the Ministry stating that a small office committee has been appointed to consider the question.

ANNOTATION

Undergraduate and Graduate Teaching in Ophthalmology

It is interesting to find from the appendix of the 1923 volume of the *Transactions of the American Ophthalmological Society*, that in the United States of America, as in this country, the subject of teaching ophthalmology to undergraduates and graduates has been receiving considerable attention. Readers of this journal will recollect that these matters formed the subject of two reports by the Council of British Ophthalmologists in 1919 (*Brit. Jl. of Ophthal.*, Vol. III, pp. 165, and 558).