(3) Jacovides (Alexandria).—Defects of vision following injections of large doses of emetine. (Troubles visuels à la suite d'injections fortes d'émétique.) Arch. d'Ophthalm., Nov., 1923.

(3) Jacovides reports his findings in 300 cases of dysentery treated with emetine. During the War 212 cases of dysentery were seen, and on arrival at Alexandria 22 per cent. of these had eye symptoms. These comprised:—Lacrymation and slight congestion of the bulbar conjunctiva, photophobia and diminution of vision in some cases down to perception of light. The majority showed mydriasis with pupils inactive to light or convergence, loss of field especially on the temporal side, and a central scotoma. There was also circumorbital pain. Ophthalmoscopically there was at first hyperaemia of the retina and optic nerve, followed in a few days by some retinal ischaemia with slight pallor of the disc, and a return to normal within 15-20 days.

With regard to age and doses:—90 per cent. of the patients whose ages were between 15 and 25 showed no symptoms provided the dose did not exceed 5-6 ctg. in 24 hours, and in the remaining 10 per cent. the symptoms cleared up 3 days after stopping the emetine.

Over 30 years of age the percentage of cases affected with this dosage rose to 25.

Ametropes seemed more liable to suffer than emmetropes, while tobacco and alcohol increased the susceptibility to a very marked degree. Susceptibility was diminished by a previous course of emetine, and a sort of immunity developed, 8 ctg. a day being required to produce the same proportion of affected cases.

In summing up the author compares the action of emetine with that of tobacco and alcohol with the difference, that the manifestations appear much more quickly and that on removal of the cause they disappear without leaving any appreciable organic damage.

F. A. Williamson-Noble.

BOOK NOTICES


The preface states that this book is intended to be elementary, practical and non-mathematical, to suit the requirements of student workers in ophthalmic optics. This intention is so conscientiously
carried out that there is not a formula in the book, and so it cannot meet the requirements of these students in the examination room.

In the first fifty pages the elementary action of spherical, spherocylindrical lenses and prisms is rendered familiar by simple experiments made with a box of trial lenses. This is excellent, and it is followed by an explanation of accommodation, defects of muscle balance, and errors of refraction. Short chapters are also given on retinoscopy, ophthalmoscopy and spectacle frames, and the book concludes with fifteen tables, several of which may prove useful.

A number of interesting facts are mentioned which are not to be found in the current standard books on the subject. For instance, (pp. 11 and 12) a black line one twenty-thousandth part of an inch in width can be recognized as a line at ten inches distance. Further, if the line be broken, and one part displaced by the thickness of the line, the discontinuity can be recognized at a distance of ten inches, i.e., for reading vernier or a slide rule, accuracy up to 1" may be expected, although for recognizing two adjacent lines of the same width the separation between them must subtend an angle of 100" according to the author. We think that this is too great. We believe most people can recognize a displacement of 60" at least, as a macular cone subtends an angle of less than 27" at the nodal point of the eye, and all that is necessary is that a row of macular cones between the two retinal images should be unstimulated. The accuracy of the sense of alignment is of enormous importance to engineers and workers in a physical laboratory and is well known to be extraordinary; it almost certainly depends upon light sense and not upon the visual acuteness of the macula.


This, the English translation of Dr. Fuchs’ Atlas, contains eighty-five pages of text as a separate paper-covered book which has a place inside the cloth-covered board binding of the atlas. There is a three-page index and a five-page list of plates.

This atlas contains coloured illustrations of all the ordinary pathological conditions which are met with in ophthalmology. It contains several plates of each subject showing modifications. As an example of thoroughness, there are ten illustrations of various manifestations of sympathetic ophthalmia. Included in this series of sympathetic ophthalmia, there is one of what must be a very rare case of probable sympathetic ophthalmia in the first or injured eye before any appearance of sympathetic was seen in the second
eye. Another rare and interesting example of sympathetic ophthalmia is that in which the granulomatous mass has spread from the choroid along the track of posterior ciliary vessels through the sclera. These coloured illustrations of sympathetic ophthalmia are included in plates number 26 and number 27.

There are many examples of new growth of the various parts of the eye and, in addition to the more ordinary varieties, there is a good example of a melanoma or pigmented naevus of the choroid and a naevus of the conjunctiva, and, further, of an adenoma of the ciliary body. The use of this term “adenoma” is explained as referring to the appearance of the growth, which is somewhat glandular in form, although probably the growth is in no sense a truly glandular structure.

As examples of somewhat more uncommon pathological specimens there is one of disciform keratitis and one of keratomycosis aspergilina. It is to be noted that in the illustrations of phlyctenular and trachomatous pannus, the infiltration and vascularization are shown deep to Bowman’s membrane, whereas in an example of degenerative pannus, this is superficial to Bowman’s membrane.

It is perhaps rather unfortunate that the translation of what is generally known in this country as phlyctenular keratitis, is a direct translation from the term denoting the condition in German, namely, keratitis eczematosa. The term “eczematous” has, of course, no real connection with this disease, which has nothing related to the conditions of the skin that pass by that name.

A very important and helpful feature of the work is that the histories of individual cases with clinical notes are included in the description of the pathological plates.

One small criticism may be passed on the “make-up” of the book, but it is a very small matter. The cloth band that holds the paper-covered book of the text could be well replaced by a large pocket, or a strap outside all, for it is difficult to insert the paper-covered text underneath the band.

Words sufficiently complimentary for the illustrations themselves, for the actual drawing, the colouring and the reproduction cannot be found. All are excellent. The paper on which the coloured illustrations are printed is very good. The text is in large type and is well spaced and the English translation appears to be satisfactory. This atlas, at the figure of 10 dollars, is certainly a marvellous production considering the fact that there are no fewer than 191 coloured illustrations.