by the Schiötz instrument. One assumes, therefore, that this is
an article intended to give a preliminary account of a new and
relatively untried instrument.

ERNEST THOMSON.

(6) Weekers, L. (Liege).—The effect of injections of distilled
water on the ocular tension. (Les effets des injections d'eau
distillée sur la tension oculaire.) Arch. d'Ophtal., February,
1924.

(6) Weekers, after a brief review of some of the
physiological work on the intraocular pressure, comes to the
conclusion that under certain conditions it is possible to diminish the intraocular pressure
by increasing the molecular concentration of the blood. He made
a series of experiments on rabbits by injecting distilled water
subcutaneously, intraperitonealy, and intravenously. The ocular
tension was measured with a Schiötz tonometer. His
results were as follows: "Injections of distilled water, whether intravenous,
intraperitoneal, or subcutaneous, cause an increase of the ocular
tension. That increase of tension is but little marked, and is not
lasting, so that it may easily pass unobserved. It is probably due
to the diminution of the molecular concentration of the blood, and
to the modification of the intraocular fluid, which is the result of this.
The brief increase of the ocular pressure under the influence
of injections of distilled water is followed by a fall of that pressure,
more extensive and of greater duration. This is the result of a
toxic effect which is produced whatever the method of adminis-
tration may be. Large injections of distilled water provoke in the
animal general disturbances and even death. For these reasons
the clinical use of distilled water does not seem to be of any
value."

E. E. H.

BOOK NOTICES

Affections de l'Oeil en Médecine Générale. By F. Terrien, Pro-
fesseur agrégé a la Faculté de médecine, Ophthalmologiste de
l'hôpital Beaujon; G. Cousin, Chef de laboratoire d'ophtalm-
ologie à la Faculté de médecine. Paris: Masson et Cie. 1924.
488 pp., 128 illustrations. Price, 40 francs.

The first part of this book comprises a short section on Anatomy
and Physiology followed by a description of disease of the eye on
the lines of the ordinary textbook of ophthalmology. In other
words, the eye is considered in its different parts, cornea sclerotic
lens, etc., and an account given of the various diseases liable to affect
these structures. This account does not always coincide with
accepted teaching. For example, in the section on correction of
amblyopia in concomitant convergent squint the need for correction
of errors of refraction is emphasized and the use of atropin is advised because paralysis of accommodation will lead to the suppression of the spasm of convergence. This of course may well occur in some cases. The authors, however, go on to state that it is impossible to use atropin permanently, one uses it alternately in each eye, and that in this case the atropinized eye becomes straight and fixed, while the other deviates.

The third part of the book will be most interesting to those in general practice. It is headed “Ocular lesions in General Diseases.” The first general disease considered is “senility” and the section gives a useful resumé of the changes occurring, one might say, physiologically, in old age. Such for example, are the increased susceptibility to subconjunctival ecchymosis, due to the great fragility of the conjunctival vessels, the tendency to epiphora due to mild degrees of senile ectropion, alteration of colour sense, slight loss of peripheral field and of central acuity of vision.

There is a section devoted to ocular troubles of menstrual origin, and here one finds mentioned, neuralgic phenomena in the region of the first branch of the trigeminal, hyperaesthesia, accommodative asthenopia, slight increase of exophthalmos in early Graves’ disease, etc. These phenomena are of course quite well known, but it is useful to have them grouped together.

In the chapter on endocrine glands there are some interesting observations on Graves’ disease. After partial extirpation of the thyroid gland, the exophthalmos has disappeared on the side of the resection and has persisted on the other. The exophthalmos is not due to direct action of the thyroid, but to the action of the other glands, under the influence of the thyroid, especially the thymus. This has been proved by ablation of the thymus bringing about a recession of the eyes after an unsuccessful result following the removal of the thyroid. In some cases glaucoma can be traced to thyroid insufficiency: If an intravenous injection of 99 c.c. of 10 per cent. sodium chloride be given, the intraocular tension is diminished by the osmotic effect of the increased salt content in the blood. In hypothyroidism this salt content falls from the normal 1.13 per cent. to about 0.72 per cent. Administration of thyroid extract rectifies this and brings about a diminution in intraocular tension—in one case the tension was reduced from 40 to 18 mm. of mercury by administration of thyroid.

In a book of this character, when such a large field has to be covered, there must be many omissions; the account of papilloedema for example covers just about a page, but the book fulfils a very useful purpose. It contains a great deal of very interesting reading matter, some of which may be controversial, but is none the less worth while reading. The somewhat novel system of grouping cannot fail to be of use to those accustomed to hunting through the
numerous chapters of a large textbook for references to the ocular lesions occurring in a single disease.

In conclusion the book can be heartily recommended to those wishing for a comprehensive survey of French views on ophthalmology, set forth with great skill and lucidity.


The new edition of this well-known and deservedly popular textbook has been thoroughly revised; there is hardly a chapter without alteration and improvement.

The arrangement of the work has been made a little more systematic; thus the section on the principles of reflection of light appears in the chapter of elementary optics, instead of forming part of the description of the ophthalmoscope; and the details of the ophthalmometer need no longer be sought in the chapter on astigmatism.

There are a few minor errors which have escaped notice; thus in Fig. 5 (which has been inverted in printing), the wave front in the denser medium appears to move forward obliquely and not in a direction perpendicular to its face; again, on page 67, under the heading of "The Indirect Method," it is said that the observer recognizes that the image is inverted by slightly moving "the focus glass and finding that the image moves in the opposite direction." When the focus glass is moved, the image moves in the same direction, but faster than the glass.

These are very small points, and in all more important things the book is a safe and valuable guide to the student.


Four years have elapsed since the last edition of this work was published and as a good deal of research has been carried out in that time, there is naturally much that is new in the present edition. The work is so well known and is so highly appreciated by the profession that it is unnecessary for us to give a lengthy review of it; it is a therapeutic dictionary which few can afford to be without.

Of the newer drugs, insulin is probably the most interesting at the present time and the details of its preparation and dosage occupy six pages. Ophthalmic surgeons will be interested in cocain and its substitutes, and all will agree with the authors' comment in their preface on the difficulties placed upon its proper sale in prescriptions which are bona fide. The synopsis of the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1920, and the amending Act, 1923, will be found of great value.