

This committee spent more than a year in examining the so-called "electronic reactions" and their application in diagnostic and therapeutic work. It studied the technique in detail; attended numerous demonstrations and the members submitted themselves to Abrams' diagnosis in order to learn how the latter appeared from the patient's point of view. The committee procured the genuine Abrams' apparatus for first-hand study and experimentation; it made tests with a number of Abrams' disciples for the purpose of determining the accuracy of the so-called reactions and, in short, it kept in touch with the "electronists" from its high priest Albert Abrams until the time of his death down to the most obscure "E.R.A." practitioner. Nor was this all. The committee studied alleged cures, maintained a voluminous correspondence with those who claimed to have been benefited by the "electronic treatment" and in fact, carried on the very kind of investigation that Abrams himself asked for—but never expected or desired to get.

And the results of this exhaustive investigation is expressed in the opening paragraph of *The Scientific American's* latest and final article :

"The so-called electronic reactions of Abrams do not exist—at least objectively. They are merely products of the Abrams practitioner's mind. The so-called reactions are without diagnostic value. And the Abrams' oscilloclast, intending to restore the proper electronic conditions in the diseased or ailing body, is barren of real therapeutic value. The entire Abrams' electronic technique is not worthy of serious attention in any of its numerous variations. At best, it is all an illusion. At worst, it is a colossal fraud."

A. F. MACCALLAN.

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## BOOK NOTICES

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**Sémiologie Oculaire. Le Diaphragme irido-ciliaire, Anatomie Physiologie, Pathologie.** By PROF. FELIX TERRIEN. Paris Masson et Cie. 1924. Pp. 234, 123 illustrations.

This is the second volume of a series of monographs by the same author. Its general arrangement is very similar to that of the preceding volume "La Calotte Cornéo-sclérale," a notice of which appeared in this journal in December, 1923. A third volume on the Crystalline Lens is announced as in preparation.

The *irido-ciliary diaphragm* is held to include all that part of the uveal tract anterior to the ora serrata, and is dealt with under the three headings: anatomy, physiology, pathology. The

section on anatomy and physiology is followed by one on the functional disorders of the diaphragm, *i.e.*, of the nerve and muscle constituents of the iris and ciliary body, which affords a clear and instructive account of these anomalies. The remaining four sections are devoted to diseased conditions of the iris and ciliary body and include inflammatory and traumatic lesions, tumours, and a chapter on variations in ocular tension.

Terrien's reputation as a writer on ophthalmic subjects is well maintained in this volume, which is clearly written, and though full of detail is nowhere overloaded. While a monograph on a section of an organ allows the writer ample scope in the description of the manifestations of disease of that particular area, it places him in difficulty when treating of disorders which appertain to the organ as a whole. Two such instances in this volume are, the shadow test for refractive errors, and sympathetic ophthalmitis.

The book is liberally illustrated. Most of the illustrations are good, though there are exceptions, *e.g.*, Figs. 50 and 119. A comprehensive table of contents is appended.

**Diseases of the Eye: A Handbook of Ophthalmic Practice for Students and Practitioners.** By GEORGE E. DE SCHWEINITZ, M.D., LL.D. (Pennsylvania), Sc.D. (Michigan). Professor of Ophthalmology in the University of Pennsylvania, etc., etc. Tenth edition, with 434 illustrations and 7 coloured plates. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company. 1924. Pp. 865. Price, cloth, 50s. net.

Any text-book which has passed through ten editions almost speaks of its popularity and excellence for itself. This work is undoubtedly one of the best, if not the best, American handbook on ophthalmology. It was last revised in 1921. The new edition contains considerable additions and alterations bringing it thoroughly up to date. These comprise an account of new methods of illumination such as Gullstrand's slit-lamp and red-free light; agricultural conjunctivitis; uveal parotitis; temporary amaurosis in infants; and operations on the extraocular muscles, etc. Modern ideas of irido-cyclitis and retinal angiosclerosis have also been added.

Among so many good chapters, those devoted to inflammation of the uveal tract are particularly good, and the diseases are very fully described. On the other hand, the chapter on "Cataract" is somewhat short, although it contains all the essential points. It states on the authority of van Duyse and Danis that a splinter of iron near the lens may cause siderosis. The reviewer doubts whether this can occur without perforation of the lens capsule having taken place. In siderosis of the lens the piece of iron is usually found within it. Under "Diseases of the Vitreous," a

drawing (Fig. 219) of a very remarkable formation of new blood-vessels in the vitreous is shown. It is not of the type usually seen and must be of very rare occurrence, unless the picture is somewhat misleading. There is rather a deficiency in pathological illustrations. For instance, under "Diseases of the Retina" there is only one such illustration, that of a globe containing a glioma; considerable help is given to the student when the histological conditions associated with the disease described are shown.

The book is well printed and easy to read, but the text is somewhat hampered by a number of names, which although gratifying to the individuals quoted who read the book, is of little service to the student, since there are no references appended. The black and white illustrations on the whole are good. The coloured illustrations of the fundus suffer badly from want of depth of colour and might be much improved upon. There is a very complete index.

**Sur les Lésions de L'Appareil Visuel dans les Guerres Balkaniques, 1912-1919.** By DR. C. PASCHEFF, Prof. de Clinique Ophtalmologique à la Faculté de Médecine de Sofia.

This work is composed of many clinical histories of war injuries, appropriately grouped; each group being preceded by the author's brief generalizations or explanations.

The first half comprises lesions of the extracranial visual apparatus; the latter half intracranial lesions together with two detailed cases of injuries to the thyroid and pituitary respectively.

There is an interesting series of cases of macular degeneration due to concussion of the globe from projectiles passing in its vicinity. A case is described in which sympathetic irido-cyclitis did not develop though a rifle bullet penetrating the ciliary region remained *in situ* for six months.

Among the varied hemianopsias described are two cases of symmetrical annular scotomata from occipital lesions. Another case (Obs. IV, page 99) in which, with a localized lesion of the right occipital region, only paracentral symmetrical portions of the right visual fields together with both maculae remained intact, would appear to support the theory of bilateral cortical representation of the maculae. The book is very interesting and will well repay perusal.

**Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom.** Vol. XLIV. Pp. 452 with 18 plates and 43 text illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1924.

The last volume of the "Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society," though, owing to the absence of a Bowman lecture, on a less magnificent scale than the preceding one, is full of

sustained interest. An interesting discussion on the physiology and pathology of the pupil reactions was opened by Sir John Parsons, Professor Edwin Bramwell and Mr. R. Affleck Greeves. Any useful abstract of the opening papers or the discussion would take up too much space; these must be read in the original, and, although the whole report only occupies 45 pages, it will be found to require careful attention. Among the numerous other papers of interest, we should like to draw special attention to that by Miss Ida Mann on Coloboma Iridis and its Embryology, with its numerous excellent plates. Included in the volume is a report of the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress of 1924, and also reports from the Midland, North of England, and Irish Ophthalmological Societies. We hope to give abstracts of some of the more interesting papers at a later date.

#### **Ultra-Violet Rays in the Treatment and Cure of Disease.**

By PERCY HALL. With introductions by Sir Henry Gauvain and Leonard Hill, F.R.S. Pp. 110 and 20 plates. London: Wm. Heinemann (Medical Books), Ltd. 1924 Price, 7s. 6d.

This book is intended to serve as a handbook for the use of the ultra-violet rays in general therapeutics. As pointed out by Leonard Hill in the introduction, we have in ultra-violet radiation a valuable means of raising the bactericidal power of the blood. In addition these rays produce alteration of electrical charge resulting in changes in the aggregation of colloidal contents of the living substance of the deep epidermic cells, and, in consequence, there follows erythema, and increased exudation of lymph and white corpuscles. The author gives an account of Rollier's "Sun-Cure" Institution at Leysin and then goes on to describe the artificial methods of imitating sunlight and of producing ultra-violet radiation. He comes to the conclusion that ultra-violet radiation can be quite well compared to heliotherapy, and that the rules laid down by Dr. Rollier as to exposure can be usefully studied and applied, with suitable modification, in the treatment of patients by ultra-violet radiation. The latter part of the book gives an account of the various complaints in which the author has found the radiation of use. Skin diseases and general defective nutrition seem to give the most conspicuously successful results. The only eye cases mentioned are some good results obtained in the treatment of superficial corneal opacities by Menzies, a case of corneal opacity following a penetrating septic wound which healed completely, and a case of iritis in which some improvement was obtained. No evil results were recorded. Any surgeon desirous of making use of the treatment will find full instructions clearly expressed in this book.