work on the treatment of intraocular affections, chiefly iridocyclitis, by means of specially filtered rays from an arc lamp.

As a work of reference the book will be most useful, and its value in this respect is greatly enhanced by an excellent bibliography.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of The British Journal of Ophthalmology

Dear Sir,—A number of years ago an article appeared in an English or American journal dealing with the pharmacology of mydriatic alkaloids, and especially, I think, with atropin and the varying action of different samples. Being at the moment much interested in the last-named subject, namely, the possibility of varying therapeutic action, I shall be greatly indebted to any reader who can help me to find the article in question. I was under the impression that it had appeared in the Lancet, but the Editor of that journal has kindly searched his indices for the ten years, 1907 to 1917, without success. These seem the most probable years but it is possible I am wrong in my estimate of the period.

Yours faithfully,

33, Snowdon Place, Stirling.

March 9, 1925.

ERNEST THOMISON.

OBITUARY NOTICE


Richard Williams was born in Anglesey in 1845 and died on Friday, February 20, at his residence, Pen-Bre, Upper Bangor.

He qualified in 1870 (after acting as H.S. at the Carmarthen Infirmary he studied ophthalmology in London and Paris), and retired from active practice in 1924, a period of fifty-four years. About thirty-seven years of this were spent in Liverpool as Assistant Surgeon and Surgeon to the Liverpool Eye and Ear Infirmary and Ophthalmic and Aural Surgeon to the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan. He left Liverpool in 1910 and continued to practise as an Ophthalmic Surgeon at Bangor, North Wales, until within a few months of his death.

During the most active period of his career Williams held office as President of the Wigan Medical Society and of the North Wales Branch of the British Medical Association, and Vice-President of the Liverpool Medical Institution and of the Ophthal-
mological Society of the United Kingdom. He was also a Justice of the Peace for the city of Liverpool.

Richard Williams was a man of striking and unusual characteristics. Some who knew him slightly thought him eccentric: if to have deep convictions and the courage which should go with them; to be absolutely honourable; to have a keen sense of humour and a peppery temper; and if finally to have an ill-concealed hatred for all humbug and snobbery is to be eccentric, then Williams was very eccentric indeed. A man of this type will have many devoted friends but his acquaintances will often misunderstand him.

Of his intellect one would say that he had an original and logical mind, was more of a thinker than a reader and had a keen eye for essentials. Thirty-five years ago he would talk as much about the soil and the importance of raising its power of resistance as of the bacteria he sought to destroy.

He was a fine operator, high-strung, sensitive but full of initiative and courage. His ingenuity is shown by the following examples: An eye speculum with eyelash guards; iridectomy scissors for use with the right hand on the left eye; a particularly handy cotton-wool holder; the treatment of conical cornea by the corneal cautery; a method of muscle advancement by a single circular stitch (this operation was usually done in seven or eight minutes under cocain and was invariably successful); the vertical radial corneal incision in hypopyon-ulcer instead of the better-known Saemisch transverse section; the double iridectomy for incarceration of the iris in a corneal or limbal scar—performed by puncture and counter-puncture with a Graefe knife; an excellent but little known operation for ectropion without excision of tissue. But to judge of his resource and inventiveness one had to see Williams at work. Every case was treated entirely on its own necessities and almost without reference to established custom, and this was especially true of plastic operations about the lids and conjunctiva—the greater the deformity the more Williams was pleased and the better seemed the result.

Williams was extremely modest and could with great difficulty be induced to publish his methods, so that much of his original work is known to a few colleagues only.

Williams had many interests besides his professional work—he was a great admirer of France and French culture and had a good working knowledge of the language; he also spoke a little Spanish and was interested in philology, but above all he was an ardent lover of his native Wales and the Welsh language.

Mr. Williams suffered deeply from the loss of his eldest son who was killed when flying over the Turkish lines, but he was nobly sustained by his devoted wife and younger son who survive him.