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BOOK NOTICE


To have written a book of this scope, with such wealth of detail, and to have drawn the majority of the illustrations himself is an achievement of which any ophthalmologist might be proud. To have written it without access to ophthalmic literature, at sea, in military transports and in camps, with all the distractions incidental to active service makes the achievement still greater. In one way, it also enhances the value of the book, because, instead of being presented with a rehash of the often conflicting views of many authorities, the reader is given the results of one man's observations, and the methods he has used to cope with the many and manifold surgical problems presented by the eye and its adnexa. Were the experiences of such a man narrow and limited, this method of describing it would be of little value; but in the present instance, the author is a man of wide experience—both in civil and military fields, and the results of this are gathered together in the volume under review.

It opens with an introductory chapter, which abounds in useful instructions for the ophthalmic surgeon and his assistant, and deals with matters such as the lay-out of the theatre, care of instruments, discipline of the staff and pre- and post-operative care of patients. This is followed by a chapter on anaesthesia and analgesia, and then come some 130 pages concerned mainly with plastic surgery of the eyelids. In addition to describing operations for the relief of ptosis, ectropion, entropion and other deformities, the author deals in considerable detail with reconstructive surgery for war injuries. This is regarded by many as the proper domain of the plastic surgeon, but a good case is made out for the ophthalmic surgeon doing this work, though he should have an apprenticeship with a plastic unit before attempting it. The same question comes up with regard to dacryo-cysto-rhinostomy, which some regard as an operation for the rhinologist. Although it would probably be unwise for the ophthalmic surgeon to attempt it without having previously seen the operation, he should be able to carry it out by following the careful description and clear illustrations given in the letterpress.

The remaining chapters of the book deal with the lacrimal apparatus, the extra-ocular muscles, the conjunctiva, cornea, anterior chamber and sclera, the iris, the lens, glaucoma, the retina, choroid and vitreous, traumatic surgery and the orbit. Throughout these, the same meticulous care is observed in the illustration and description of the operations. Each is preceded by
a list of the instruments required, and an account of the method employed for producing anaesthesia or analgesia. Although this entails a good deal of repetition, it has the advantage of giving a complete description of each operation, which is useful for hasty reference. The author never hesitates to incorporate his own views, and is apt to give these at times in a dogmatic fashion—an example being the statement that, in severe cases of squint, operation is done between the ages of 2 and 4. In the reviewer's opinion, such dogmatism is justified when one takes into consideration the purpose of the book; but it might afford a subject for criticism by some readers.

"Eye Surgery" contains much original matter, which has not appeared before in book form—particularly striking examples are afforded by the description of the author's methods of extraction of intra-ocular foreign bodies by the posterior route, of implantation of radon seeds far back on the eye for intra-ocular neoplasms, and of his corneo-scleral stitch in cataract extraction. In describing the extra-capsular method of performing this operation, it is recommended, after applying and closing the capsule forceps, to displace them down, and then to the temporal and nasal sides before removing them. Such a manoeuvre has led at times to loss of vitreous, whereas this catastrophe does not occur if no manipulations are made preliminary to taking the forceps out of the eye once they have grasped the capsule.

The chapter on the orbit contains much useful information, and an excellent description of a modified Krönlein's operation, which, however, would be easier to follow if a diagram of the bony structures were included, showing the lines along which they are divided.

The function of a review of a book is to indicate the characteristics and contents, so that readers can decide whether or not they need to possess it. In the present instance, the characteristics are lucidity of description, meticulous attention to detail, incorporation of valuable material not heretofore obtainable in book form and sincerity, with a certain healthy degree of dogmatism in its writing. As a result, the reader of this volume, given reasonable experience in ophthalmic surgery, should be able to perform any of the operations described in it, even if he has not had the opportunity of seeing them done by others.

For many years a need has been felt in this country for an authoritative English book on ophthalmic operative surgery, and this need has now received ample satisfaction.

We would like to congratulate 'Henry' Stallard on having achieved what might seem the impossible—namely, providing us with corn from Egypt and manna from the desert.
Sir William Collins was ophthalmic surgeon to the Temperance Hospital and at one time Surgeon to the Royal Eye Hospital. He joined the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom in 1886, but never held office and retired some years ago. His outside interests were so many and varied that he did not often attend the Society's meetings. In this there was a marked contrast between the brothers, for Treacher Collins hardly ever missed a meeting and apart from his work had few outside interests. Thus, it is not as an ophthalmologist that Sir William will be remembered, but for his work on the L.C.C. and as member of Parliament. How few to-day remember that London largely owes its ambulance service to his untiring efforts. District Nursing was another concern in which he took great interest and the Chadwick Trust.

NOTES

Death

As we go to press we learn with great regret of the death of Sir Arnold Lawson. We hope to publish a memoir in a later number.

* * * *

Honours

In the New Year's Honours List we are pleased to see that the C.V.O. has been conferred on Mr. F. A. Juler.

Mr. Eugene Wolff has been elected an honorary member of the Société belge d'Ophtalmologie.

* * * *

Appointment

Mr. J. D. Martin-Jones has been appointed Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Salisbury General Infirmary, Wilts.

* * * *

The British Orthoptic Journal

The third number of this journal is just as interesting as its predecessors, if not more so, and it possesses the same freshness of outlook. Those who are inclined to scoff at "exercises" might be interested to read Miss Sparrow's paper on the "Art of Seeing," and Miss Mayou's on "Convergence Deficiency," while a dilemma, which was frankly inexplicable by the authors of an article in a recent number of the American Archives, is neatly resolved by Miss Swift and Miss Balkwell. It concerns the apparent difference in distance of red and green lights, which may often be noted in, say, the "Friend" test.
That orthoptics is coming into its own would seem to be shown by the provocative statement of one ophthalmic surgeon, that "the surgeon must work for the orthoptist—not the orthoptist for the surgeon."

The remainder of the articles are not of this character, however, though some of them make a justifiable plea for early operation in cases of squint.

It is impossible, within the limits of a short review, to deal with each of the seventeen papers by ophthalmic surgeons and orthoptists, but we cannot conclude without mentioning "Doubts and Difficulties" by Miss Exner, which, from a delightfully modest beginning—"I very nearly didn't come,"—goes on to give much useful information, and is full of sound common sense.

The circulation of this journal is at present small, but the material in it is of such value, that we feel the venture of publishing it should be encouraged, and that it would not be out of place to state that copies, 5/6 each, including postage, may be obtained from the Publishers, Wilding and Son, Ltd., Castle Street, Shrewsbury.

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**Western Ophthalmic Hospital**

Mr. Lindsay-REA retired from his post on the staff of the Hospital on December 13, 1946, after 25 years service. His colleagues made a presentation to him on his retirement.