BOOK NOTICES


The distinguished expert on the general lighting requirements for visual efficiency in industrial occupations has, in this book, registered a powerful appeal for a more intelligent and better informed approach to the visual problems which arise in industry. He points out that none of the specialists concerned with such problems, ranging from the oculist through the job-study and planning expert to the illuminating engineer and factory welfare worker, has, at present, sufficient general knowledge of the factors involved to view this type of problem as a whole, and he has done his best to supply the necessary information.

Most of the visual problems encountered in industry have two sides: the visual equipment of a worker may be deficient in some important respect such as colour vision, visual acuity, or stereoscopic vision; or the task itself may be such as to tax the capacity of the most efficient eye by providing unduly poor contrast or by involving the recognition of very small or rapidly moving objects. It is, therefore, important not only that the visual capacity of the worker should be known and his individual deficiencies corrected if possible, but also that the visual difficulty of the job should be assessed and, as far as possible, minimized. Much can be done by the provision of adequate and suitable lighting, or of visual aids such as magnifying spectacles. In addition, the general lighting provided in factories and workshops can add greatly to the well-being and comfort of those who work in them.

The book is written from an essentially practical point of view, and is full of examples of the way in which attention to such points as sufficient illumination and contrast can increase output and raise morale. Much of the book is based on the author's own observations and experiments both in the factory and the laboratory.

The book is clearly, if not always very interestingly written, and is illustrated by many diagrams as well as by actual photographs of different types of industrial tasks and work places. Unfortunately many of the illustrations, although usually well described in the text, have quite inadequate legends.


This book is printed very legibly on good paper and is well illustrated. Great credit must be given to Mr. Stallard for his original drawings. The subject matter is up-to-date and very readable. It
should be noted that St. Margaret's Hospital for Ophthalmia Neonatorum was closed in 1939 at the beginning of the war and has never been re-opened for its former purpose. Minor criticisms are that it might be better to provide explanatory legends for each illustration, mentioning the salient features of the condition appearing in the drawing, and that a few more details about post-operative treatment, particularly regarding the length of time the patient may expect to be warded, would be helpful to general practitioners and house surgeons. These small omissions do not seriously detract, however, from the excellence of the book.


Mr. Minton, who has evidently made this subject his own, has produced an eminently readable book of modest size. It deals with a problem which is usually given very little space in the ordinary manuals of diseases of the eye; yet it is obviously of great importance. The chapters on "Vision and the Selection of Personnel", "The Employment of the Blind and Partially Blind", and "The One-eyed Worker" are especially to be recommended. To the House Surgeon one of the great bugbears of eye injuries is the medico-legal aspect. He will find useful guidance in Chapters III and IV. The instructions for the initial treatment of eye injuries are so clear and simple that they can be easily followed by the non-medical first aid worker.

Both author and publisher are to be congratulated on the production of this useful, well illustrated, and well produced guide to those affections of the eye to which factory and other industrial workers are liable.


It seems increasingly difficult with the many advances in the therapeutic field, and with a widening of knowledge in the diverse branches of ophthalmology, to envisage a book of reasonable dimensions which will adequately encompass the subject for the student. The new edition of Conrad Berens' book, written as it is by ninety-two authors, must remain subject to the same criticism made in the review of the first edition. It is surely almost impossible to contain within the covers of a single volume the work of
so many eminent authorities, without some contrast of opinion between one section and another. This may be rather confusing to the elementary student, but for those with some experience of ophthalmology, for whom this book is undoubtedly intended, a divergence of views inclines rather to stimulate interest and thought, than to leave the reader bewildered.

The anatomy and development of the eye are covered in less than eighty pages, a difficult task in itself, but the reader is given many references by which he may widen his knowledge. To abbreviate anatomy lays one open to the danger of neglect, and great care has evidently been taken to avoid this possible criticism. Two names, which one might well expect to see, have been omitted from the section on physiology. One has come to associate the name of Finchem with a quite considerable amount of original work on the subject of accommodation, but there is no mention of his contribution to this field. Allowing for some delay between the time of assembling the material and its ultimate publication, especially with a text book, it would seem that at least some of Granit's earlier work on colour vision might have found its place in the chapter on that subject. The section by Traquir on peripheral vision and perimetry is concise, yet comprehensive.

In the extensive section on pathological conditions of the eye and their treatment, Thygeson's chapter on the conjunctiva presents the view that general, rather than local, penicillin therapy is the method of choice in the treatment of ophthalmia neonatorum. This is somewhat misleading in view of Sorsby's work, which suggests that the best mode of application is by frequent local instillations.

It is refreshing, in this world of surgical achievement, to see in the chapter on glaucoma a timely word of warning concerning the ultimate prognosis in cases of the chronic simple variety subjected to operation. A recent review of the results confirms the reviewer's opinion that the outlook is more favourable in those cases which do not "require" operation. The advantages of an operation which gradually lowers the tension are also stressed, and in this connection favourable mention of Herbert's sclerotomy is made.

A wide range of remedies indicates the unfortunate lack of an effective method of treating sympathetic ophthalmitis, but the omission of any anti-biotic from the formidable list is surprising. Medical ophthalmology receives, at first glance, brief recognition. The section under this title rather resembles a descriptive catalogue. Seeking further, however, one finds a chapter on neuro-ophthalmology, which amplifies and considerably extends the space devoted to this important aspect of ophthalmological knowledge.
A curious result of the arrangement of the book is exemplified in the consideration of intra-ocular foreign bodies. The localization and principles of treatment are described by one writer, and another deals with surgical methods of their removal in a later chapter. That bone of contention, the relative merits of anterior and posterior routes for the treatment of magnetic intra-ocular foreign bodies, is kept carefully buried by Comberg. The final chapters on the legal aspects of ophthalmology and on bacteriological technique introduce subjects usually neglected in text books of a similar size and scope.

The entire book is printed in clear and readable type, and is adequately illustrated, both by diagrams and by photographs. One does feel, in looking back through the pages, that more ruthless editing would greatly reduce the duplication of material, some of which appears in more than one chapter in almost identical form. This would appreciably shorten the text, while in no way detracting from the wealth of information provided.

BOOKS RECEIVED


A general discussion of abiotic drugs, with a special chapter on their use in ophthalmology. To be reviewed in *Ophthalmic Literature.*


A good text-book on the dispensing, fitting, and verification of lenses. To be reviewed in *Ophthalmic Literature.*
NOTES

Meetings. Glasgow During March a series of meetings will be held in the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Glasgow, on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. The general arrangements will be similar to those made for the series held in 1949. A discussion will follow the main paper.

March 1. Dr. D. Christison—“Prognosis in Iridocyclitis”; March 8. Dr. S. Galbraith—“The Evolution of the Ophthalmoscope”; March 15. Dr. J. D. Fraser—“Glioma of the Retina”; March 22. Dr. T. D. M. Roberts—“Primary Visual Receptors”; March 29. Dr. T. Wilson—“Modern Methods of Investigation”.

Lectures, Manchester and Leeds Dr. Ramon Castroviejo, of New York, is lecturing to the North of England Ophthalmological Society: (1) at the Manchester Royal Infirmary on Thursday, March 30, 1950, at 3.30 p.m.; (2) at the Leeds Medical School on Friday, March 31, 1950, at 3 p.m. All ophthalmic surgeons throughout the United Kingdom are cordially invited to these lectures. In order to facilitate arrangements it is desirable that those wishing to come should communicate with The Hon. Secretary, North of England Ophthalmological Society, 70, Upper Hanover Street, Sheffield, 3.

New York The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness has announced the appointment of Robert S. Krueger as Director of Industrial Service.