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# Ophthalmic Literature

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# Ophthalmic Literature

VOL. VII. JANUARY, 1917. NO. 1.

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## THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

The most interesting piece of literature of ophthalmology that has appeared in the month is the first number of the British Journal of Ophthalmology. Its typography is neat, and it is printed on paper of a quality that is scarcely obtainable in America. The careful arrangement and freedom from proof errors show the experience and devotion of the editor, Sydney Stephenson, and its sub-editor, E. Erskine Henderson. The editorial committee adequately represents the best writers on ophthalmology, not only of the United Kingdom, but of the whole British Empire. It gives an illustration of the truth set forth in the "Foreword" that "The stress of war has compelled all sorts and conditions of men to ask themselves how can they better utilize their resources and increase the efficiency of their work. In countless ways they are finding that 'union is strength.'"

From this "Foreword," by Priestley Smith, we learn that the prime mover in this new development was Mr. W. H. H. Jessop, president of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, who by his position, and "not less by his own personality," was especially fitted to initiate the scheme and carry it into operation.

The new journal has been assured of welcome and support in all parts of the British Empire, and the hope is expressed "That the hospitality of its pages will be gladly accepted from time to time by ophthalmic surgeons in Holland, Sweden and some other countries whose original work has hitherto been published elsewhere."

If we understand the psychology of the American writer of papers on ophthalmology, he, too, will be strongly disposed to accept the opportunity of addressing such a circle of readers as this journal will undoubtedly command; especially if nothing corresponding to it is brought into existence on this side of the Atlantic.

The original contents of the first number present the results of both laboratory investigation and practical experience. The abstract department is of course affected by the war, and in the present difficult situation it is interesting to see the extent to which American ophthalmology contributes to this European journal. Among the abstracts there are, American, 7; French, 5; German (of 1915), 2, and British, 1. The only book noticed is the American Encyclopedia and Dictionary of Ophthalmology.

It should be a satisfaction and inspiration to those who are actively interested in promoting the literature of ophthalmology in America to know that they have such a worthy rival, and one that can be depended upon to do justice to what is published in this country.

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OPHTHALMIC LITERATURE

LIBRARY THE MERGER OF AMERICAN JOURNALS

The movement to secure united support to establish in this country an ophthalmic journal worthy of the population, material wealth and scientific activity of the United States, is proceeding most satisfactorily. Wherever the idea has been broached it has met with favor. A typical incident is thus told of the last meeting of the Buffalo Ophthalmological Club, "where nineteen members of a membership of thirty-one voted unanimously to favor and support such a merger."

Other societies have taken similar action, and it is hoped that all will add to the influence of such action by sending information of it to Ophthalmic Literature, or publishing it through other channels. It can now be stated the ophthalmologists of the country will soon be given an opportunity to offer their material support to the undertaking.

ANALES DE OFTALMOLOGIA.

To have continued the publication of this journal in the City of Mexico through nearly four years of revolution, war, brigandage and social disorganization shows a persistence and devotion to ophthalmic science that may well be admired. Seventeen years ago M. Uribe y Troncoso started this monthly publication and with the help of his Latin-American colleagues, kept it up until last year. Finally its publication has been suspended, and its talented editor has removed to New York City. He will be heard from, and we may wish him many years of peaceful opportunity for the study, practice and advancement of ophthalmology in his adopted home.

BOOK NOTICES.

Ophthalmological Society of Egypt, Bulletin of 1915. 8vo, 100 pages, illustrated. Cairo: M. Roditi & Co.

This society was founded in 1902, and now has seventy-seven members. The majority of these are evidently Egyptians, although a number of names of Europeans who are well known for their work in ophthalmology in Egypt, such as MacCallan, Osborne, Jacovides, Fischer, Peretz and Sachs, appear in the list. It appears that forty-one of the members attended this meeting. The papers with their accompanying discussions are published chiefly in English, albeit the construction bears evidence of incomplete mastery of the language on the part of writers and speakers, and French and Arabic appear in its pages. The illustrations are from photographs of cases and sketches of microscopic appearances. The various communications, some of them of high scientific interest and value, are noticed in the appropriate sections of this month's Index of Ophthalmology.

MacCallan, A. F. Third Annual Report on the Ophthalmic Section of the Department of Public Health, Egypt. Quarto, 44 pages, illustrated by map, half-tone plates and charts. Cairo: Government Press.

The ophthalmic hospitals of Egypt, first opened in 1904, numbered sixteen ten years later. While some of them had to be converted into military hospitals after the outbreak of the war, their immense service still goes on in the others. In 1914 the number of new patients was 50,126; of visits, 686,012; in-patients, 2,071; and operations, 40,701. The bulk of the work is done by twenty-seven Egyptian surgeons who have completed the curriculum at the Government Medical School, and vol-



unteered for this service. Five of the hospitals are provided with fully equipped laboratories. For the study of conjunctival diseases and the operative correction of deformities of the lids caused by trachoma the opportunities afforded in these hospitals are unsurpassed in the world.

**MacCallan, A. F.**, Director of Ophthalmic Hospitals in Egypt. *Trachoma and Its Complications in Egypt*. 8vo., 32 pages. Cambridge, England, University Press.

This book has grown out of its author's experience in the Ophthalmic Hospitals in Egypt, a country in certain parts of which over 90 per cent of the school children suffer from this disease. It begins with a history of our knowledge of trachoma, and account of its prevalence and mode of infection in Egypt, a clinical description of its stages, and the acute conjunctivitis complicating trachoma. The second part takes up the pathology of trachoma. The third part is devoted to the treatment of trachoma and its sequels and of complicating acute conjunctivitis. A fourth part includes differential diagnosis, prognosis, influence of trachoma on ophthalmic operations, prophylaxis and causes of blindness in Egypt, statistics and literature.

The story of trachoma is one of sordid ignorance and filth, unfavorable environment, great historical movements, human tragedy, and even romance. It is one of the great regions that stretch beyond the boundaries of present scientific knowledge, with a mighty appeal to human benevolence. This account of it, by one of the great leaders in the struggle with this disease, must be of the greatest interest to all who have to combat trachoma.

## Index of Ophthalmology

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