

## BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

### BLINDNESS IN CHILDHOOD

*The Causes of Blindness in Childhood.* By G. R. Fraser, M.A., M.D. (Cambridge), Ph.D. (London) and A. I. Friedman, M.B., B.Ch. (Rand), D.O.M.S. (R.C.P. & S.), F.R.C.S. (England). Pp. xvii + 245. Illustrated. \$12.00. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1968.

This is a study of 776 children, representing nearly a quarter of those under the age of 20 years in England and Wales. Relevant clinical and genetical information about each child is presented in considerable detail, providing a massive record. Cases are classified clinically and grouped into mainly genetic, and pre-, peri- and postnatal types.

There is much in this book for the ophthalmologist, and the genetic aspect, which is managed particularly well, provides wider interest. P.D.G.Q.

### MANUAL ON EYE DISEASES

*May and Worth's Manual of Diseases of the Eye.* 13th ed. By T. K. Lyle, C.B.E., M.A., M.D., M.Chir. (Cantab), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), A. G. Cross, M.A., M.D. (Cantab.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.) and C. A. G. Cook, G.M., M.C., F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Pp. xi + 796. Illustrated. £3.10.6. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cassell. 1968.

'May and Worth' needs no introduction to ophthalmologists or, indeed, to doctors who studied in the English medium in general. It has been a standard book of reference for medical students since it was first published in 1906 and has continued, during successive years, to be enlarged and brought up to date.

The newest edition is edited by well-known names—Lyle, Cross and Cook—all of London, and the section of optics has been rewritten by Montague Rubin. Illustrations and diagrams

are simple and instructive.

The book continues to be a very useful reference book for the inexperienced ophthalmic surgeon or for the general practitioner working in remote areas, and the chapter on ocular therapeutics will be consulted by many who do not carry the ordinary treatment at their fingertips. J.G.L.

### NEW IDEAS IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

*Trends in New Medical Schools.* A Mount Sinai Hospital Monograph. Ed. by H. Popper, M.D., Ph.D. Pp. viii + 175. \$7.50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1967.

This monograph consists of some 28 essays, from the USA and elsewhere, under the editorship and rather dominated by the views of the Dean for Academic Affairs of Mount Sinai, New York. It constitutes a highly stimulating and thought-provoking compendium of new ideas in medical education.

This verdict does not imply that the reader will find himself in agreement with all the views. I certainly did not. For instance, Professor Popper says 'This responsibility is even heavier . . . in the United States, because here the society of the future seems to be better exemplified than anywhere else'. An allowable comment might be 'God forbid!'

Two essays deserve special mention, 'Student revolt and our medical schools', by Charles S. Davidson of Harvard, and 'A student's view', by Sidney R. Block, a Johns Hopkins medical student.

Significant trends include the rapid establishment of new medical schools and the increasing use of computerization. Society's need for comprehensive medicine has to be squared with the Hippocratic concept of the importance of the individual patient, and doctors and medical auxiliaries have to understand each other and cooperate in mutual support.

J.F.B.