

GLAUCOMA SYMPOSIUM

Documenta Ophthalmologica. Advances in Ophthalmology. Edited by G. von Bahr, G. B. Bietti, J. ten Doesschate, H. Fischer-von Büнау, J. François, H. Goldmann, H. K. Müller, Jean Nordmann, A. J. Schaeffer, and Arnold Sorsby. Volume XIII. (Pp. 515+xii; illustrated. Guilders 75.) The Hague: Dr. W. Junk. 1959.

The thirteenth volume of *Documenta Ophthalmologica* is one of the most useful in this valuable series, containing a full account of the symposium on glaucoma with the original contributions and the subsequent discussions held in Liège on the invitation of Professor R. Weekers in September, 1958. The symposium was a representative meeting of many of those from several countries both in Europe and America who are engaged in elucidating the many problems of this still enigmatic condition, and, as would be expected, the report makes excellent and satisfying reading.

Most aspects of the subject were exhaustively discussed: the formation and outflow of the aqueous humour (Kinsey, Bárány, François); the central-nervous regulation of the intraocular pressure (von Sallmann, Gloster); tonometry and tonography (Kronfeld, Prijot, Goldmann); the effect of adrenocortical steroids on the intraocular pressure (Linnér); the visual fields in glaucoma (Weekers, Dubois-Poulsen, Harms); and the occurrence and manifestations of the disease as seen in a clinic (Leydhecker). An able summation of the general conclusions is contributed by Goldmann.

To analyse each article would require many pages, for the volume forms indispensable reading for those interested in glaucoma; and for good measure its value is increased by three short papers on ophthalmodynamometry, scleral rigidity, and some properties of visual space.

STEWART DUKE-ELDER.

IMPLANTATION OF OVA

Memoirs of the Society for Endocrinology. No. 6. *Implantation of Ova: Proceedings of a Conference held at the Ciba Foundation, London, on November 27, 1957.* Edited by P. Eckstein. (Pp. 97+vii; illustrated. 30s.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1959.

This memoir contains the proceedings of a one-day conference held in November, 1957. It touches on many different aspects of implantation from mouse to man, and, though it is too short to provide any substantial body of information, individual papers are stimulating and indicate active fields of current work. Dr. Eckstein, Dr. Shelesnyak, and Professor Amoroso combine to survey the subject and to stress the need for the use of newer techniques in the study of implantation—microchemical analysis, histophotometry, autoradiography, etc. Such an approach is exemplified in Dr. Lutwak-Mann's paper on the biochemistry of rabbit implantation and by Professor Boyd's contribution on glycogen in early human implantation sites. Dr. Shelesnyak's paper on deciduomata in the rat must be studied in full rather than summarized; from an elaborate series of experiments evidence is produced that histamine may play an essential role in the implantation process. Professor Robson deals with anti-metabolites which affect the products of conception while causing little reaction in the mother, and found that medium doses were liable to lead to malformations. Professor Mayer summarizes the work of his group at Bordeaux on experimental delayed implantation in rats

and on the natural delay which may occur during lactation. Unimplanted blastocysts were found to survive in the absence of both ovarian and adrenal hormones and will later implant if sufficient hormone is provided. Professor Mayer has shown the direct local action of progesterone in inducing implantation by injecting it into one uterine horn only.

Altogether, valuable experimental results have been obtained from the rat, but it would be unwise to generalize from them since there are morphological and physiological species differences in the interaction of the nidating egg and endometrium—for example, the rabbit or guinea-pig blastocyst apparently fails to survive delay in implantation. It is hoped that this meeting and memoir will stimulate further research on this fundamental and fascinating process.

R. DEANESLY.

LUNG-FUNCTION TESTS

Lung Function Tests. An Introduction. By B. H. Bass, M.D., M.R.C.P.(Lond.). (Pp. 72+viii; illustrated. 8s. 6d.) London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd. 1959.

Now that lung-function tests are beginning to be as essential a part of the clinical assessment of patients with lung disease as are cardiac function tests in cardiology, many chest clinicians seek a readable account of the rather complex theory and practice of pulmonary physiology. They may turn to this slim volume hoping to find simplicity and relevance to clinical problems. Simplicity they will find, but it is simplicity bought at too high a cost in inaccuracy, and of relevance to clinical practice there is almost none, for this book is about tests, not about their results in diseases of various kinds. There are, unfortunately, too many inaccurate or controversial statements scattered throughout the book for one to be able to recommend it to the uninitiated student; and for the initiated it is really too simple. Further, a number of tests are recommended that are not standard practice in this country, though they are widely used in the United States. For normal values of the various tests the reader is referred to tables, but no precise reference is given, and, indeed, no such reference could be given, for, unfortunately, no such tables exist. Indeed the whole problem of the wide range of normality in pulmonary function is not discussed at all. The idea that inspired this book is admirable; it is a pity that it fails to live up to its ideal.

C. M. FLETCHER.

INTRAVENOUS CATHETERIZATION

Intravascular Catheterization. Compiled and edited by Henry A. Zimmerman, M.D., B.S. (Pp. 682+xviii; illustrated. £6 6s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

This monograph gives an idea of the vast ramifications of research which have followed the work of Forssman in Germany and Cournand and Richards in the United States, who were all appropriately recognized recently by a Nobel Prize award. Under proper precautions long intravenous catheterization is a safe procedure, and we have only now delineated the possible fields in which it may be applied with advantage to medical knowledge and to the individual patients who are so studied.

This volume is an all-American production with one chapter from Toronto, and it gives an account by