The Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom

The 93rd Annual Congress of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom was held in London at the Royal College of Physicians from April 11th to 13th, 1973, under the presidency of Mr. H. B. Stallard and was attended by 394 ophthalmologists.

The congress opened with the presidential address by Mr. Stallard who discussed the evolution of lateral orbitotomy (an operation in which he had pioneered some 40 years previously). The Bowman medal for 1973 was presented to Prof. H. Goldmann who then delivered the Bowman lecture entitled ‘On the Slit-Lamp’. During the opening session, short papers dealing with electro-diagnostic techniques were given by Prof. H. E. Henkes and Mr. J. H. Kelsey; Prof. D. Sevel described the management of retinoblastoma in the light of this experiences with 71 cases at the Grote Schuur Hospital; and the results of culturing retinoblastoma cells, with assessment of their in vitro sensitivity to various cytotoxic drugs, and Mr. E. J. Arnott presented a film showing his technique of phako-emulsification of cataracts.

The general discussion centred on two main topics: management of melanoma of the uveal tract and measurement in ophthalmology. The first symposium was introduced by the president; the natural history of malignant melanoma of the uvea was reviewed by Dr. G. Morgan; Dr. A. H. S. Rahi discussed immunological aspects, with the possible role of antibodies in the initiation of tumour necrosis which appeared to be associated with a favourable prognosis and the possibility of immuno-therapy in the treatment of uveal melanoma was considered. Dr. J. Harry considered the differential diagnosis of melanoma of the uveal tract, and in a retrospective survey, found an incidence of 11% of cases in which an erroneous diagnosis of melanoma had been made. An interesting paper by Mr. E. S. Rosen and his colleagues demonstrated the value of photographic methods including stereo-colour photography, infra-red colour photography and fluorescein angiography in the clinical assessment of these lesions; the use of A-scan ultrasonography was assessed by Mr. M. Paul, Dr. P. Lommatzsch (East-Berlin) described his technique and results in the treatment of choroidal melanoma with /?-ray applicators, whilst the place of light coagulation was reviewed by Dr. M. H. Vogel (Essen), and Mr. M. A. Bedford considered the values and limitations of cobalt plaques. Dr. W. Manschot pointed out the possible danger of using light coagulation for small choroidal melanomata, many of which are associated with extra-ocular extension which will be completely untouched by this form of treatment.

The second symposium on measurement in ophthalmology was introduced by Prof. E. S. Perkins; photographic assessment of optic-disc cupping using colorimetric techniques was presented by Dr. J. Gloster and Mr. T. J. Ffytyche described photo-grammetric methods for quantitative measurement of cupping based on paired stereo-photographs. A new method of quantitative slit-image photography of the anterior chamber was presented by Mr. N. Brown and this technique was employed by Mr. P. E. Boulton to investigate the mechanism of transient myopia following extensive light coagulation which was shown to be due to changes in the position and dimen-
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sions of the lens. An instrument permitting ophthalmodynamometry on the slit-lamp microscope was described by Mr. A. D. Steele, and Mr. C. Barber presented a sophisticated method of automated electro-oculography which can be easily performed by a technician. Dr. G. Lloyd discussed radiographic measurements in the diagnosis of orbital space-occupying lesions, and Mr. J. E. Wright described a technique for continuous monitoring of the visually-evoked response during orbital exploration under hypotensive anaesthesia.

Twenty short papers on medical and surgical topics occupied two further sessions, and films showing the surgical management of anterior uveal neoplasms were presented by Prof. W. S. Foulds and Prof. M. Boniuk.

Symposium on Ophthalmic Plastic and Corneal Surgery

The Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Department of Ophthalmology of the University of Miami School of Medicine and the Florida Lions Eye Bank at Miami announces a Symposium on Ophthalmic Plastic and Corneal Surgery, to be held at the Doral Beach Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida, April 7-12, 1974.

Tuition will be US$200., breakfasts included. Checks should be made payable to ‘Bascom Palmer Eye Institute’ and mailed to Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery Symposium, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, POB 875, Biscayne Annex, Miami, FL 33152 (USA).

Advances in Vitreous Surgery

March 7-9, 1974 at the University of California, San Francisco, Calif.

Program Chairman: Alexandre R. Irvine, MD.

V. Vitreous Structure (Balazs); Clinical Examination of the Vitreous (Cockerham, Van Heuven); Vitreous Surgery via the Corneal Approach (Kasner); Vitrectomy via the Pars Plana (Machemer); Vitrectomy Instrumentation (Machemer, Parel); Hand aids and Substitutes for Intravitreal Manipulations (Straatsma); Viewing and Illuminating Systems for Intravitreal Surgery (Machemer, Mandelcorn); The Role of Vitreous Surgery for Trauma and Intraocular Foreign Bodies (Machemer); Vitreous Surgery in Rhegmatogenous Retinal Detachment (Shea, Okun); Electrosurgery (Shea, Irvine); Vitreous Surgery for Diabetic Retinopathy (Okun, Machemer); Vitreous Surgery Horizons (Balazs).