In a consideration of the direct matching test before blood transfusion (page 694) the use of albumin is referred to, but the very valuable Coombs’ technique is not mentioned. Indeed, it is not quite clear what test is recommended and in what circumstances. The general advice, however, that the work should, wherever possible, be undertaken in a properly-equipped laboratory by an experienced person is clearly sound.

The above criticisms can only be considered as minor blemishes in a work of this size. Without question, the authors are to be congratulated on having carried out a revision of so large a field.

J.V.D.

**OPHTHALMIC MEDICINE**


The common ground of ophthalmology and general medical disorders has been adequately explored by few writers and the need for a successor to Foster Moore’s classic work has been keenly felt for some time. Mr. Doggart has set out to fill this need and the result is an eminently readable little book of some 35 chapters, pleasantly produced and liberally illustrated.

Space is devoted to ophthalmological manifestations of general infections, disorders of the throat, nose and ear, skin diseases, metabolic, cardiovascular, blood and renal disorders and the student may find here a reference, of necessity brief, to the chief ocular manifestations of such diseases. Four excellent introductory chapters deal with ocular symptomatology and methods of examination and these include a particularly well-illustrated section on physical signs, whilst a chapter on the significance of refractive errors has wisely been given a central position in the book. Later chapters deal with the broad relationships of neurological and ophthalmological disorder, congenital abnormalities and the effects of drugs and poisons.

For the physician in training and the physician in practice the book will be found a useful addition to his library.

H.E.H.

**STUDIES ON TUMOUR FORMATION**


This volume is a beautifully produced reprint of the late G. W. Nicholson’s *20 Studies on Tumour Formation* which appeared in *Guy’s Hospital Reports* between 1922 and 1938. To Nicholson’s contemporaries and students these studies need no commendation, and their reappearance in this compact form will be very welcome. To pathologists of a younger generation, it affords a ready access to the principal works of one of their greatest predecessors, a master of his subject who was not widely enough appreciated in his own lifetime. The *Studies* cover a wide range—the general structure of tumours, hamartomas and other minor malformations, heterotopia of tissues, metaplasia, endometriosis, mixed tumours and teratomas. On all of these subjects Nicholson wrote with great originality, with a stronger basis in general biology than any other writer, with arresting and amusing criticisms of ill-founded hypotheses, and with apposite quotations from the classics. In his exposures of the falsity of the hypotheses of Cohnheim on ‘cell rests’, of Grawitz on renal tumours and of Wilms on teratomas, he was far ahead of most of his contemporaries and indeed of many writers of today, who would do well to read him now. Besides containing a wealth of factual information, Nicholson’s *Studies* are thought-provoking and piquant, the utterances not only of a great pathologist, but of a great philosopher and a great biologist. For this reason his work will continue to be of permanent interest as a landmark in the history of the subject.

Nicholson’s 184 illustrations, most of them microscopic pen-and-ink drawings executed by his own hand, are reproduced here. The original blocks and drawings were not available, so that the pictures had to be reproduced from the printed page; the publishers are to be congratulated on the care they have taken to ensure well-nigh perfect reproductions. A full index adds greatly to the value of the book, and a glance over this at once reveals the great range of subjects covered in the 20 *Studies*.

This volume will be valued, not only for the wealth of information it contains, but also because it is a worthy memorial to a great pathologist. Guy’s Hospital staff, by agreeing to the republication of Nicholson’s work in this handy form, have not only fittingly honoured his memory but have also done a signal service to pathology.

R.A.W.

**POSTGRADUATE OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY, 1950**


This book is largely based upon the author’s celebrated postgraduate courses given in recent years at the Soho Hospital for Women, and is written chiefly for those seeking to specialize in obstetrics and gynaecology. In no sense is it a complete textbook, but is a collection of studies selected widely though not altogether at random from subjects of major practical importance. It will make a great appeal to ex-Servicemen and to those who, by the lapse of time since their qualifying examinations, have lost touch with advances and current thought; only a great and experienced teacher could have achieved the remarkable blending of fundamentals with up-to-date embellishments with such economy of words and yet such fluent literary style.
Studies on Tumour Formation

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