

field, less than 20 years after the relief of mitral stenosis was established as a proper procedure for the surgeon, there remain points of controversy: in most of these he steers a middle course. The closed operation remains firmly entrenched, but only for pliant stenosis. Open reconstructive techniques may be over-emphasized, but tables show that the Mayo Clinic, too, is tending more and more to valve replacement by prosthesis. The essentially palliative nature of mitral valve surgery is stressed. Descriptions of results from elsewhere are followed by tables and diagrams of 1,768 operations at the Mayo Clinic from 1951 to 1966. In 1965 40% of operations were open. The open procedures were of such variety that it is difficult to grasp the conclusions; the high incidence of embolism following prosthetic replacement remains a challenge. Of closed procedures the superiority of the transventricular approach over the transatrial is confirmed.

The book opens with a historical account of the development of mitral valve surgery since Arbuthnot Lane suggested it in 1890. Knowledge of fruitless attempts, of discarded theories and abandoned operations, leading finally to the simultaneous acceptance of a procedure which, in its various forms, has benefited thousands, is a salutary introduction of the greatest interest.

M. MEREDITH BROWN.

## Connective Tissue

**The Connective Tissue.** International Academy of Pathology Monograph. By 30 authors. Edited by Bernard M. Wagner, M.D., and David E. Smith, M.D. (Pp. 408 + xi; illustrated. £7.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967.

This volume is based on the principal course at the annual meeting of the International Academy of Pathology in Philadelphia in 1965, which was entitled "Pathologic Physiology and Anatomy of Connective Tissue." There are thirty contributors from such diverse fields as veterinary medicine, biochemistry, anatomy, medicine, and biophysics. The book is beautifully laid out with the admirably clear type which one associates with the publishers.

The main topics dealt with are the ultra-structure of connective tissue, its metabolism, and the abnormal forms met with in connective tissue disorders of man and animals. There are two subsections, one on the geographical distribution of connective tissue disease and one on research methods. With such a wide spectrum of topics it is difficult

and perhaps unfair to pick out any particular section for comment. However, I found the section on "Concepts of Connective Tissue Disease" and on "Hyalin and Fibrinoid and the Amyloid Fibril" particularly interesting and stimulating. The geographical section is also of great value, since it indicates that the epidemiology of connective tissue disease is much the same in such diverse geographical areas as Israel, the Soviet Union, and Scandinavia. For the research worker the chapters on "Histochemistry, Biophysics and Microanalysis" and "Electron Microscopy of Connective Tissues" are of outstanding merit.

The book suffers from the defect of discontinuity of style and content inseparable from all books of multiple authorship, but readability is not its purpose; it is essentially a book of reference and it fulfils this role admirably.

D. M. DOUGLAS.

## Errors of Refraction

**Contact Lenses.** Symposium in Munich-Feldafing, 1966. Edited by O. H. Dabiez, H. Laue, A. Schlossman, and G. P. Halberg. (Pp. 173; illustrated. £4 11s.) Basle: S. Karger. London: Academic Press. 1967.

It has become a common practice at international scientific meetings to take advantage of the assembly of specialists from afar and to invite those with interest and experience in a particular field to discuss their problems around the table. Many believe that from such gatherings more progress can be made than from the international congress itself, in which attempts are inevitably made to cover too much ground in too short a time. At the XXth International Congress of Ophthalmology held at Munich in August 1966 there was a symposium on contact lenses from which two dozen papers in various languages, of which four are British in origin, are now published.

Many of the communications are of general ophthalmological interest, but others are of value only to those who specialize in the production and fitting of contact lenses. Considerable improvements have occurred in corneal or microlenses in recent years which have improved their tolerance by suitable eyes having little abnormality apart from refractive error. There is still need for the older type with scleral support in cases of gross ocular disease. Evidence that contact lenses have not yet solved all refractive abnormalities and still present problems of tolerance was

provided by the spectacles worn by many of the experts who contributed to this useful symposium.

HAROLD RIDLEY.

## Tribute to a Great Surgeon

**Selected Writings of Lord Moynihan.** A Centenary Volume. (Pp. 177 + xiv; illustrated. 63s.) London: Pitman (for the Osler Club). 1967.

This gracious tribute to the memory of a great surgeon and a remarkable man contains a short biography by Dr. White Franklin, a note by Dr. W. R. Bett on Moynihan's visit to the Osler Club, and 140 pages of well-chosen extracts from his writings. A full list of his publications is appended and the book ends with a short tribute to Donald Bateman, who wrote the well-known biography of Lord Moynihan.

Lord Moynihan was the leading British surgeon for 30 years at the beginning of this century. He was a very skilful and careful operator, a writer of excellent prose, and an eloquent orator. He excelled in everything he did and was a born leader of men. He once said that he prepared his addresses and speeches several weeks before the occasion and put the manuscript away in a drawer until just before the time for delivery. He must then have committed the script to memory, for he spoke without a note, standing erect and speaking clearly and with a softness in his voice that compelled attention and elicited sympathy. So attractive was his personality that to read now what was listened to with delight 40 years ago is to experience a certain amount of disappointment. Such was his personal influence.

Moynihan had high ideals and tried to pass them on to others. When speaking to the nurses at Leeds he laid down the qualities required of a nurse as follows: "To be ready in all emergency, quick and competent in action, courteous in speech, considerate in thought; a comfort in hours of sorrow, an inspiration and encouragement in times of gloom; to give ease to many a weary body and solace to many a troubled heart; to lift with strong and gentle hands a heavy load of anguish from those who falter and stumble in despair. It is to be a beacon of hope, a rock of refuge, and a tower of strength."

He was kind enough to follow this wonderful passage with these words: "Be comforted. Ideals are not for attainment, but for pursuit."

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## Books Received

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.

**The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child.** Vol. 22. Edited by Ruth S. Eissler, M.D., Anna Freud, LL.D., D.Sc., Heinz Hartmann, M.D., and Marianne Kris, M.D. (Pp. 425. 84s.) London: Hogarth. 1968.

**A Textbook of Histology.** 9th edition. By William Bloom, M.D., and Don W. Fawcett, M.D. (Pp. 858 + xvi; illustrated. £7 9s.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1968.

**Tobacco and Tobacco Smoke.** Studies in Experimental Carcinogenesis. By Ernest L. Wynder and Dietrich Hoffmann. (Pp. 730 + xiii; illustrated. £13 10s.) New York and London: Academic Press. 1968.

**Allgemeine und Experimentelle Immunologie und Immunpathologie.** By Professor Carl Steffen. (Pp. 702 + xxiii; illustrated. DM. 89.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1968.

**Diseases in Antiquity.** A Survey of the Diseases, Injuries and Surgery of Early Populations. Compiled and edited by Don Brothwell and A. T. Sandison. (Pp. 766 + xix; illustrated. \$39.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1967.

**Psychiatry.** Proceedings of 4th World Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid, 1966. Part 1. Plenary Sessions/Symposia. Edited by J. J. Lopez Ibor. (Pp. 675 + xii; illustrated. Parts 1-4, £41.) Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica Foundation. 1967.

**Psychiatry.** Proceedings of 4th World Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid, 1966. Part 2. Symposia. Edited by J. J. Lopez Ibor. (Pp. 678 + xiii; illustrated. Parts 1-4, £41.) Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica Foundation. 1968.

**Genetics for Medical Students.** By E. B. Ford, F.R.S. (Pp. 211 + xii. 21s.) London: Methuen. New York: Barnes & Noble. 1968.