FIELDS OF VISION IN MINERS' NYSTAGMUS

(4) It encourages a position of the visual axes in which images fall on relatively corresponding points.
(5) By relaxing excessive convergence it may secondarily relieve accommodative spasm.

The makers of the occluder are Messrs. Theodore Hamblin, Ltd., 15, Wigmore Street, W. to whom my thanks are due for skilfully carrying out my suggestions.

THE FIELDS OF VISION IN MINERS’ NYSTAGMUS

BY

G. F. HAYCRAFT

WOLVERHAMPTON

In the Ophthalmoscope, Vol. XI, p. 727, writing on the fields of vision in miners' nystagmus Cridland reported a concentric contraction for white, blue and red with occasional interlacing of red and blue. In the majority of cases the fields for the different colours maintained their usual relative proportions. I have been unable to find any further reports on this subject.

I have recently examined the fields of vision in a series of 43 cases. Of these, 35 were old, and eight new cases. In the latter class I include those certified as suffering from the disease within the last six months.

The list of old cases was compiled as follows:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certified as Miners' Nystagmus</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 years</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 years</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 years</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*12 years</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*15 years</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*25 years</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These four men had resumed work underground for two or three periods of from 2 to 4 years.
Of the eight recent cases I found:

- Showing oscillation of the eyeballs: 6
- Contraction of field for white: 8
- Contraction of field for colours: 2
- Interlacing of colour fields: 2
- Colour fields not taken on account of difficulty: 3

In the old cases, 35

- Showing oscillation: 21
- Contraction of field for white: 29
- Contraction of field for colours: 22
- Interlacing of colours: 22
- Blue field smaller than red: 9
- Fields normal: 3
- Colour fields not examined: 4

Lister's perimeter was used in good daylight.

The objects were white, blue and red discs of 20 millimetres diameter.

The fields in this series were, in the majority of cases, so similar in form and so suggestive of a definite type that they could not possibly have been produced by malingering. About half of them were taken by my assistant and any unconscious tendency to "cooking" the results was avoided by this division of labour.

Cridland tells me that in taking the red field he often found a band in which the colour was named as "orange" before a red sensation was admitted. I can confirm this though I did not take the trouble to map out the band.

My results are in almost complete agreement with Cridland's; the only difference being that I found a greater proportion of interlacing of the fields for red and blue.

Conclusions

1. In a large percentage of cases of miners' nystagmus there is a definite alteration in the fields of vision.

2. The commonest change is a concentric contraction for white.

3. A large number show contraction for red and blue and interlacing of these colours is frequent.

4. The amount of contraction of the fields is usually but not invariably a measure of the severity of the disease.

5. In the absence of physical signs, the change in the fields described above combined with typical subjective symptoms can be relied upon in diagnosing miners' nystagmus or in determining that recovery is still insufficient to permit work underground.
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