distance from the axis. The interval between the images of these two light-sources was then measured with the ophthalmometer, and from these measurements a trigonometric curve of a meridional section of the anterior surface of the lens was obtained. In a lens of a 55-year-old woman, extracted in the capsule, and placed in distilled water for a couple of days, the following results were obtained:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Angular distance of element from axis</th>
<th>Approximative linear distance of element from axis</th>
<th>Radius after 4 hours</th>
<th>Radius after 48 hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5°</td>
<td>0'5 mm.</td>
<td>6'3 mm.</td>
<td>8'1 mm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15°</td>
<td>2'2 mm.</td>
<td>7'2 mm.</td>
<td>9'0 mm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25°</td>
<td>3'8 mm.</td>
<td>7'4 mm.</td>
<td>9'2 mm.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Measurements of other lenses gave analogous results. These measurements show that the lens actually assumes an almost spherical form when swelling, and that no bulging-out of the thinner parts takes place. The radius of the peripheral parts differs very little from that of the more central ones, whereas, if a conoid were formed, the radius would be of infinite magnitude. Likewise it would be considerably greater than in the centre, if the lens capsule, when swelling, assumed the form of a surface of the second degree.

As to the cause of the fact that the lens-capsule, when stretched, does not present the same reaction as the india-rubber bladder, Odqvist points out that is probably due to the fact that the capsule is not of a homogeneous structure and that therefore the general laws of distension are not applicable to this tissue.

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**ANNOTATION**

**Paralysis of the Abducens Nerve following Spinal Anaesthesia**

Hagman and Wood, of New York, report two cases of sixth cranial nerve palsy following spinal anaesthesia. They state that the abducens is affected in well over 90 per cent. of all cranial paralyses following lumbar anaesthesia.

MISCELLANEOUS

Some authors claim that the incidence of abducens paralysis is as high as 1 per cent. of all spinal anaesthetics; others speak of it as occurring once in 250 cases. During the past decade fewer cases have been reported and the authors postulate three possible reasons: (a) improvement in technique; (b) these cases still occur but are not recognized; (c) these cases still occur, are recognized and are not reported.

The aetiology of the paralysis is still not clearly understood, but the authors believe that "the problem will be solved on the basis of a disturbance in the dynamics of the spinal fluid during spinal anaesthesia."

Each of these two patients complained of headaches from the 3rd to the 6th day; diplopia was noticed on the 5th day in one case and on the 6th in the other. Recovery was slow but apparently complete at the end of a couple of months. It would seem to be a little queer that patients with sudden diplopia of this sort do not notice it and the only case which persists in our own recollection bearing on the point, not it is true the sequel of spinal anaesthesia, was one which was referred to the writer by the house surgeon of the Nose and Throat department for an opinion on the external rectus paralysis present. In this case the eye was blind. The patient had not noticed any double vision but was quite positive that the eye was blind, as indeed it was.

ABSTRACTS

I.—MISCELLANEOUS


(1) Rycroft presents an analytical and statistical report of night vision tests in the Army. "In any night vision test the object is to stimulate the parafoveal and peripheral areas of the fundus. The test object used is a large V mounted in five different positions on a translucent screen behind which is a small bulb run from a dry battery and controlled by rheostat and voltmeter. The lamp is at varying distances from each of the five screens, which are arranged as an irregular pentagon. The apparatus is rotatable so as to bring one screen at a time in front of the examinee."

Preliminary details as to age, existence of any eye trouble and the wearing of glasses, how is the sight in the dark, home, whether in town or country, work in civil life and that in the Army are recorded and the soldier sits at one metre from the apparatus and is rendered