

ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

THE Eleventh Annual Congress of the Society was held at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 26-28, 1923.

The President, Dr. A. Maitland Ramsay, was in the chair. The attendance was the largest on record since the Congress has become annual. The President was well supported by a large number of Scottish members, and many prominent provincial members were present. Last, but not least, the Society were pleased to welcome their Bowman lecturer in the person of Dr. G. E. de Schweinitz, and Drs. J. Moores Ball and G. H. Simmons from the United States.

Dr. Maitland Ramsay, after acknowledging the honour done him in electing him to the office of President, said his work had dealt with the familiar and the commonplace, rather than with the strange and unusual, and that his leanings had always been towards the clinical side of ophthalmology. In his address he spoke of the debt that general medicine owed to this speciality. He said that ophthalmology not only had relations with every branch of medicine and surgery, but that it was the best training in exact observation in the whole medical curriculum. He cited several striking instances where the ophthalmic findings had preceded the other symptoms, and had assisted the general physician.

In conclusion, he drew a very interesting analogy between the ciliary and cardiac muscles, and certain of their affections.

The opening paper was read by Mr. E. TREACHER COLLINS, "On the Aetiology of Angioid Streaks in the Fundus Oculi." He showed that the arrangement of the streaks corresponded closely to that of the short posterior ciliary arteries round the optic disc and that they were obviously haemorrhagic in origin. He regarded them as due to haematoidin and haemosiderin in subchoroidal haemorrhages. The paper was illustrated with lantern slides.

This was followed by two papers on the same subject, viz. : "A Series of Consecutive Cases of Cataract Extraction by Barraquer's Method," by Mr. R. AFFLECK GREEVES and Mr. R. FOSTER MOORE.

Mr. Greeves had dealt with 51 lenses in 49 patients and Mr. Foster Moore with 38 cases. The papers were written independently and the results had not been compared before the meeting. Mr. Greeves had used the scoop in 13 cases and in 3 there had been loss of vitreous. Mr. Foster Moore had failed to remove the lens by the method in 11 cases, in 4 he had resort to the scoop, and in 9 there was some vitreous loss, though in some of the cases

the loss was very slight. Some of the cases in both series were done before the vacuum arrangements were entirely satisfactory. In Mr. Greeves' opinion the results of a successful intracapsular operation left nothing to be desired, but he thought the method had shown itself less certain in results than extraction by the ordinary methods employed. Mr. Foster Moore also showed the modified suction cataract extraction described in the last issue of this journal. In his opinion the considerable element of danger in the Barraquer method rendered it inferior to the older methods for general use, but it had distinct advantages for immature cataracts and sclerosed lenses.

Colonel Smith congratulated the authors on their papers, and discussed the importance of loss of vitreous, and the question whether vitreous was ever reformed. He said that up to one-third of the vitreous might be lost without interfering with the result. Mr. HEPBURN pointed out that in addition to the human factor there was also considerable risk of instrumental failure by this method. Mr. BICKERTON enquired as to the class of patient operated on, and Mr. JOHNSON TAYLOR hypothecated a personal test. Mr. FISHER said it was questionable if the operation described should be called Barraquer's operation. Mr. PATON spoke of the rocking movement after the suction apparatus was applied, and COLONEL KIRKPATRICK of the use of novocain to paralyse the orbicularis.

Mr. D. V. GIRI read a paper on "Some Observations on Intracapsular Extraction of Cataract, with the Description of a Simple Technique."

The last paper of the morning was to have been on "A Series of a Hundred Cases of Cataract Extraction removed under a Sub-Conjunctival Bridge," by Mr. CHARLES KILLICK, who was not well enough to read the paper. It was with the deepest regret that the members of the Society heard, on the last day of the Congress that he had succumbed to an attack of blood poisoning, contracted in the discharge of his professional duties.

A discussion on Disorders of the Blood and their Ophthalmological Manifestations was opened in the afternoon by Sir HUMPHRY ROLLESTON, K.C.B. (President of the Royal College of Physicians).

The disorders which he dealt with as coming within the sphere of the discussion were erythraemia, pernicious anaemia, combined and subacute degeneration of the spinal cord, aplastic anaemia, chlorosis, secondary anaemia (post-haemorrhagic) splenic anaemia of adults and splenic anaemia of infants, leukaemia (with chloroma), scurvy, purpura, and haemophilia. He made a very valuable and complete contribution to our knowledge on the subject, and one with copious references.

Sir FREDERICK ANDREWS, F.R.S., spoke first of functional disturbances, and secondly of the visible changes in the fundus as seen in diseases of the blood, and supplied their pathological explanation. He dealt with oedema, and considered the escape of fluid from the vessels in renal retinitis, etc., Oedema in general he ascribed to endothelial malnutrition. Extravasation of leucocytes, and the escape of red blood-corpuscles were described, and also the tumour formations in the leukaemias.

Mr. W. C. SOUTER opened from the point of view of the ophthalmologist, and gave a résumé of recent literature. Mr. R. R. JAMES gave his experiences of these cases at St. George's Hospital, over a period of fourteen years. He showed some interesting lantern slides, lent by Mr. GRIMSDALE.

Dr. GORDON HOLMES, Mr. RANSOM PICKARD, and Dr. C. O. HAWTHORNE, also joined in the discussion.

At 5 o'clock there was a large attendance in the Barnes Hall to hear the Bowman lecture, which was delivered by Dr. G. E. de Schweinitz (President of the American Medical Association). The subject selected was "Certain Ocular Aspects of Pituitary Body Disorders, mainly exclusive of the usual Central and Peripheral Hemiopic Field Defects."

The lecturer detailed his findings, conjointly with Dr. J. Parsons Schaeffer, professor of anatomy in the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, as regards the relations of the Pituitary body in 125 bodies examined.

These anatomical relations were very clearly shown by a large number of excellent lantern slides, giving the relations of the chiasma, and the different types of diaphragma sellae.

The lecturer also showed how the circle of Willis might bring about constriction, and dealt with other possible and probable ways in which the optic nerve fibres might be involved in irregularities in the position and size of the pituitary body. He did not consider that purely mechanical causes could explain all the changes found in the cases by modern methods of scotometry, and he suggested that there was also a toxic element present. The temporary field defect he cited as occurring in pregnancy supported this strongly. He dealt with the differential diagnosis from other conditions by perimetric methods, and mentioned with regard to tabes dorsalis that this disease was not frequently associated with pituitary disease.

His experiments disproved the assertion that methyl alcohol blindness was due to a primary pituitary lesion. He entered a plea for the earlier diagnosis of these affections. When the importance of the "pituitary types of headaches (which often preceded the other symptoms by years), and the earliest appearance of field defects were more fully recognized, this was possible."

Treatment was considered, both in its surgical and medical aspects, and in the latter category he referred to the value of combining mercury with pituitary extract even in the absence of any syphilitic taint.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the X-ray findings might sometimes be quite fallacious, as considerable enlargement of the pituitary body might exist without the sella Turcica showing any enlargement.

Dr. de Schweinitz's address will take a memorable place in the calendar of Bowman lectures. It was still further enhanced by the personality and the eloquence of the lecturer.

A vote of thanks to Dr. de Schweinitz, proposed by Mr. Lawford, and seconded by Mr. Treacher Collins, was carried with acclamation.

The dinner of the Society was held at the Langham Hotel on the evening of April 26. There was a record attendance of eighty-five, including the President, the Bowman lecturer and six past Presidents.

The President proposed the health of the Society in a felicitous speech, which was responded to by Sir George Berry, M.P., in a humorous vein. Sir Anderson Crichton delighted those present by the inimitable speech with which he proposed the health of the Bowman lecturer. Dr. de Schweinitz touched a deeper note, and the eloquence and sincerity of his speech will long be remembered by those who had the privilege to be present. He thanked the Society most gracefully for their invitation, and dwelt on the good that could be accomplished by a closer co-operation of Great Britain and the United States in ophthalmology, as in other matters. Mr. Cross, in a very happy speech proposed the health of the Chairman.

On Friday morning there was another well-attended discussion on "The Diagnostic Significance of Proptosis." The opening paper was read by Mr. WILFRED TROTTER. His remarks were drawn from his own clinical experience, and he restricted them to the grosser forms of proptosis. He drew the distinction between displacement in an antero-posterior plane alone, and that combined with displacement in another direction. He considered the various causes in detail and spoke of the often insidious origin of malignant disease. Mr. J. H. FISHER gave a lucid general survey of the subject from a clinical point of view. He said that in orbital tumor the X-ray findings were frequently negative. He enumerated the causes of haemorrhages into the orbit which might occur without accident. Congenital dermoid was the most frequent cyst of the orbit. In all cases with inflammatory manifestations examination should be made for paralysis of the nerves in the floor and outer wall of the cavernous

tissues. The assistance of the neurologist or rhinologist might be needed. The other opener of the discussion was Dr. Angus MacGillivray. He advocated the routine use of the exophthalmometer in these cases and enumerated the main causes of proptosis which the ophthalmic surgeon might be called upon to treat. And, he said, that proptosis should always be regarded as a "danger signal" of grave import. Mr. DOYNE detailed some interesting cases. Dr. TRAQUAIR spoke of arterio-venous aneurysm in particular. Mr. MAYOU added a case of angioneurotic oedema as a cause, and Mr. JOHNSON-TAYLOR one of organising gumma. Mr. Foster Moore spoke on the cause of proptosis in Graves' disease. MESSRS. ROPER, HARRISON-BUTLER, INGLIS POLLOCK, R. B. HIRD, HEALY, CRIDLAND, and A. GREENE also took part in the discussion.

Mr. W. T. HOLMES SPICER read an interesting paper on "Secondary Corneal Opacities," a subject peculiarly his own, and illustrated by his own drawings.

In the afternoon the clinical meeting was held at the London Hospital, where a number of interesting cases were shown.

The following papers were read on Friday evening:

Mr. HUMPHREY NEAME and Dr. W. WALLACE, "A Case of Retinitis Proliferans following Gunshot Wound of the Orbit, Rupture of the Choroid and Irido-Cyclitis; Enucleation, Clinical and Pathological Reports." Mr. Neame showed sections and Dr. Wallace his own drawings of the fundus.

Mr. F. A. ROSS and Dr. SHEPHEARD-WALWYN, "A Case of Mikulicz's Disease," with illustrations, and the pathological report.

Mr. B. T. LANG a demonstration on "The Unobstructed Field in Perimetry," and showed the fields obtained by fixation at 30°, to the nasal or temporal side of the central point.

Mr. JOHN ROWAN, "A Case of Intraocular Tumour presenting some Unusual Features," with specimen.

Mr. G. F. ALEXANDER on "Measurement of the Diameters of the Cornea and Pupil, and the Inter-pupillary Distance" in which he described the apparatus employed.

Mr. BASIL GRAVES, a paper and demonstration on "The Practical Value of the Binocular Microscope and Special Methods of Illumination." This being a subject on which the author has done a good deal of work, he made certain suggestions for a more exact nomenclature.

The session terminated with a paper on "Blue Sclerotics," by Mr. LESLIE BUCHANAN.

The business meeting was held at 9.30 a.m. on the Saturday morning. Dr. ANGUS MACGILLIVRAY read a paper on "Enucleation of the Eyeball under Local Anaesthesia," advocating this procedure and describing the technique he employs.

The paper produced a number of interesting observations on the methods in use from Sir ANDERSON CRITCHETT, Messrs. LEASK, TREACHER COLLINS, ERNEST CLARKE, TRAQUAIR, ROPER, JOHNSON TAYLOR, and Dr. DE SCHWEINITZ. The latter at Dr. MACGILLIVRAY'S request, gave the usual practice with regard to anaesthesia in these cases in the United States.

Mr. LESLIE BUCHANAN read a paper on "A New Subjective Visual Phenomenon connected with Neuralgia." The phenomenon in question was a temporary central blue vision unconnected with any visible fundus change and was discussed by Mr. TREACHER COLLINS and Drs. LEASK, TRAQUAIR, A. H. H. SINCLAIR, JOHNSON TAYLOR, and GEORGE MACKAY.

Mr. PERCIVAL J. HAY on "Prevailing Misconceptions concerning the Working Distance of Patients with Moderate and High Myopia after correction," with tables which showed the vision obtained and the position of election. Mr. Ernest Clarke spoke on the subject.

Mr. HUMPHREY NEAME on "Results of Further Investigations on the Passage of Arsenic into the Aqueous Humour after Intravenous Injection of Novarsenobenzol in Rabbits."

Mr. INGLIS POLLOCK on "A Case of Pseudo-glioma," with pathological specimen, and the concluding paper was by Mr. G. F. ALEXANDER on "A Theorem generalizing the Optical Problems of Ophthalmoscopy and Skiascopy."

At the conclusion of the Congress Dr. de Schweinitz made a farewell speech in which he said it was his dream that we might one day hold a combined meeting with our colleagues in the United States of America.

ABSTRACTS

I.—THE DIAGNOSTIC VALUE OF HEMIANOPSIA

Williamson, R. T. (Manchester).—The recognition of hemianopsia in general practice and its diagnostic importance. *Practitioner*, April, 1923.

Williamson prefers the word hemianopsia to its synonyms hemiopia or hemianopia, since the latter are sometimes applied to the retina and sometimes to the field of vision, so that unless one knows in what sense these terms are used, confusion is liable to arise. The word hemianopsia, however, is applied only to the field of vision. The author emphasizes the value of hemianopsia in



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