PORTABLE PERIMETER*

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THE prototype of this instrument was first described by me in the *British Medical Journal* (Ruben, 1949) under "New Appliances and Inventions", with full instructions so that any enthusiast might make one for himself (no patent has ever been applied for). Since that time Messrs. Theodore Hamblin, Ltd. have made for me the more advanced instrument shown below. The method of perimetry is the same as described before. I have found the normal field markings on the dome's surface (see Figure) to be essential in an instrument of this kind, since any departure from the normal field becomes immediately apparent as the test is being done, and recording on the usual printed charts does not require a feat of memory. The transparent hemispherical perimeter without the normal field markings has little advantage, if any, over other types of non-recording perimeters.

The wand can be either of the type used to carry "Traquair's" targets or like that used to carry the targets for the Lister automatic recording perimeter. This latter type of wand has a gauntlet of black material fixed to the handle, which obviates the need of a black glove or cuff.

The perimeter is mounted on a telescopic tube with a tripod base, and can be used either sitting or standing (as in an out-patients department, or when a field defect is to be demonstrated). This does away with the perimeter table, and the whole instrument is light enough to be carried about by hand.

The main use of this instrument is as an accurate confrontation test. It has no movable parts for the performance of the test, which can thus be done very rapidly.

The best results are obtained with good general lighting. An isolated source of light is best placed behind the patient. Reflections may sometimes be troublesome if within the central area of 20° radius; these will disappear if the dome is moved in relation to the light source, and, if the instrument is used only to carry out an accurate clinical perimetry in a short time, they are not of great importance.

REFERENCES

RUBEN, C. M. (1949). *Brit. med. J.*, 2, 593.

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