Surely the only reason for using this technique is for the direct benefit of the patient; and in every operation any advantage gained must be balanced against the added risk run. It appears from this report that the main objective is to facilitate surgery and to produce a better result. It is admitted that the operations mentioned are not impossible of performance without this agent "but all are rendered more easy and accurate with it".

The method reviewed is still in the stage of investigation. The factor of danger to the patient has been by no means fully evaluated. At present, each new finding will allow the existing limits of the technique to be pushed out a little further. So is experience being gained.

Many points in this article must still be considered to be in the melting pot. Only with the gaining of much more experience can the method become accepted, or even maybe rejected.

We feel most strongly that it cannot be too often repeated that this technique is still in its experimental stages.

Yours faithfully,

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CONGENITAL PIGMENTATION OF THE CORNEA

To the Editorial Committee of the

BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

DEAR SIRS—I was much interested to read in your February issue Eugene Chan's well-reasoned explanation of the anomaly of congenital pigmentation of the cornea (*British Journal of Ophthalmology*, 36, 104).

Some time ago I was struck by the frequency with which one sees corneal and subconjunctival pigment deposits among Gold Coast Africans. In an attempt to assess this and other clinical findings, which I thought were variations of the physiological normal, I examined the eyes of two hundred African school children. These were all attending Accra schools and were apparently healthy.

My notes show that I recorded the presence of "subepithelial pigmentation of the cornea" in 192 of these children, and subconjunctival pigmentation in 198 of them. The condition was bilateral, and the appearance and location of the corneal pigment were exactly similar to those in the case described by Chan. The irides of the African children were deeply pigmented, but in those who had no corneal pigmentation the skins were pale; this pallor was found to be associated with a history of European ancestry within the previous few generations.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN W. R. SARKIES.

OPHTHALMIC DEPARTMENT,
GOLD COAST HOSPITAL, ACCRA.
March 6, 1952.