ECTOPIC CILIA*†

BY

R. A. OWEN

Westhill Hospital, Dartford, Kent

DALGLEISH (1966) states that few cases of ectopic cilia have been reported in the literature and that this condition is rare. Perhaps this apparent rarity is due to the fact that many cases such as the following remain unreported.

A boy aged 14 years attended the Eye Department, King's College Hospital, in December, 1963 (Fig. 1).

The ectopic lashes and an elliptical piece of skin were excised from the left upper lid together with a fibrous band which was found passing backwards to the front surface of the tarsal plate. A sliver of tarsal plate was also excised in continuity with the fibrous band.

FIG. 1.—Appearance of ectopic cilia before operation.

FIG. 2.—Excised specimen.

Histological Report (Dr. M. K. Mason)—The specimen (Fig. 2) consists of a piece of eyelid 8 mm. long, from one surface of which hairs project. The base of the tissue away from the hairs is hard. No sinus is seen on the skin surface.

Sections show skin with some histologically normal hair follicles and accompanying sebaceous glands. A sweat gland lies adjacent to the hairs. Striated muscle and connective tissue is situated deep to these structures, and a normal meibomian gland is present towards the inner surface. The fibrous tissue appears to be extending down from the hair follicles with the striated muscle lying on each side of it.

Summary

A case of ectopic cilia is reported which is remarkably similar to those reported by Dalgleish and emphasizes the degree of uniformity that exists in this anomaly. It is suggested that this condition is not as rare as might be implied by the few cases that have been reported.

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REFERENCE

DALGLEISH, R. (1966). *Brit. J. Ophthalm.*, **50**, 592.

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† Address for reprints: Westhill Hospital, Dartford, Kent.