Correspondence

Demodex folliculorum

To the Editorial Committee of the **British Journal of Ophthalmology**

SIRS,—Concerning two interesting papers by F. P. English (*Brit. J. Ophthalm.*, 1971, **55**, 742, 747), I should like to bring to your attention my monograph "*Demodex folliculorum*—incidence and possible pathogenic role in the human eyelid" (Norn, 1970).

English has described diseased soggy eyelashes in the presence of the mite *Demodex folliculorum* and believes that the mites may cause some loss of eyelashes. My investigation comprised 400 subjects, of whom 190 were infested with *Demodex*, whereas in 210 *Demodex* was not detected. Loss of eyelashes was not found to predominate among patients harbouring *Demodex*, nor were palpebral hyperaemia, scales, crests, or itching observed. Cuffing around the base of the lash was seen more often on lashes infested with *Demodex*.

I found two species or subgroups of *Demodex folliculorum* in the human host, the short type being exactly like English's Fig. 2, p. 748 (*cf.* Norn, fig. 1, p. 15).

Yours faithfully,

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Reference

NORN, M. S. (1970) "*Demodex folliculorum*", *Acta ophthalm.* (*Kbh.*), Suppl. 108

Book reviews

The Visual Fields. A Textbook and Atlas of Clinical Perimetry. By D. O. HARRINGTON. 3rd ed., 1971. Pp. 394, 341 figs, 9 col. pl., bibl. Mosby, St. Louis; Kimpton, London. (£9.70)

This third edition of a deservedly popular textbook confirms its position as one of the best reviews of the subject. The author's use of the term atlas as well as textbook is merited by the inclusion of many of his personally performed field studies. The author's experience is presented and the relevant literature is reviewed.

The first section covers perimetric methods and the anatomy of the visual pathways. Only perimetric methods or instruments found by the author to be satisfactory are considered, but in his keenness to be all-embracing electropertimetry receives an undeservedly enthusiastic notice. The anatomy section is evidently not based on personal studies.

The bulk of the book is devoted to visual field changes in various diseases of the eye and optic pathways and is full of unique personal observations. On certain disputed points the author may be less informative than one would hope; certainly his extensive section on macular sparing is not convincing evidence for the existence of this phenomenon. Here and there he wanders into discussions of the treatment of eye diseases which seems not to be within the purview of this book.

There is a final section devoted to references and the whole comprises a readable and informative text which can be thoroughly recommended.