Anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy

TO THE EDITOR *British Journal of Ophthalmology*,

SIR, I should like to thank Dr Sohan Singh Hayreh for calling attention to my annual review of neuro-ophthalmology (Lessell, 1974). In it the reader will find that I devoted a paragraph to several of Dr Hayreh's many excellent studies on anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy (AION) (Hayreh, 1974). Dr Hayreh cavils at my comment that there are obvious differences between spontaneous human AION and the AION that is produced in monkeys. Regardless of whether or not I was correct in my observation, these differences are only of secondary importance and do not detract from Dr Hayreh's convincing demonstration of the central role of the posterior ciliary arteries in the pathogenesis of AION. Dr Hayreh also accuses me of making a misleading and dangerous statement concerning the differential diagnosis of optic atrophy. However, I neither stated nor implied that metastatic tumour was a more common cause of optic atrophy than AION. What I wanted to convey was that

if you observe a patient throughout the course of his illness (including the acute phase) and at no time is optic disc oedema observed, you should be dubious of the diagnosis of AION.

Dr Hayreh and I probably hold very similar views on AION. Perhaps this letter will make that apparent. In any case, a reading of my review (Lessell, 1974) and the relevant papers of Dr Hayreh (Hayreh, 1974) should show that there is no foundation for serious controversy.

Yours faithfully,

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References

- HAYREH, S. S. (1974) *Brit. J. Ophthalm.*, **58**, 955, 964, 981
LESSELL, S. (1974) *Arch. Ophthalm.*, **91**, 166

Notes

Pan-Hellenic Ophthalmological Congress

Thessaloniki, 28 to 30 May 1976

The ninth congress will be held in Thessaloniki, Greece. The subjects will be: Steroids and antibiotics in ophthalmology, Surgery of the lids, and Iatrogenic eye diseases.

There will be simultaneous translations in English and French.

For further information write to the Ophthalmological Society of North Greece, PO Box 497, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Canadian Ophthalmological Society

Quebec City, 6 to 9 June 1976

The 39th annual meeting will be held at the Quebec Hilton Hotel under the theme 'Medical aspects of the retina'.

Dr Pierre Almaric of Albi, France, and Dr H. MacKenzie Freeman of the Retina Association in Boston will be this year's special guests; they will present papers to the various scientific sessions.

Two half days will be devoted to discussions on the prevention of blindness, cataract, uvea, and surgical aspects of the retina. Research sessions will be held on Sunday, June 6, in the afternoon.

For further information write to the Canadian Ophthalmological Society, PO Box 8650, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 0G8, Canada.

The Eldridge-Green Lecture

London, 10 June 1976

The Eldridge-Green Lecture entitled 'The biological significance of optical illusions' will be delivered under the auspices of the Royal College of Surgeons of England

by Professor R. A. Weale at 3 pm, at the Institute of Ophthalmology, Cayton Street (adjacent to Moorfields Hospital, City Road), London. Tickets are not required.