Acquired medullated nerve fibres

G. S. BAARSMA

From the Eye Department, Erasmus University, Eye Hospital, Rotterdam

SUMMARY Myelination of nerve fibres normally stops at the lamina cribrosa. When it does proceed beyond the lamina cribrosa, it is believed to do so shortly after birth. A patient is recorded in whom medullated nerve fibres developed in the retina during adult life.

Fig. 1 *Striated whitish lesion in right eye.*

Fig. 2 *Striated whitish lesion in right eye.*

Case report

A 23-year-old male experienced blunt trauma to his right eye from a blow with a fist. In the acute stage signs of a slight contusion were present. The fundus of the right eye showed a striated whitish lesion along the inferior temporal artery (Figs. 1 and 2), which could only be interpreted as being medullated nerve fibres. Fluorescein angiography revealed no other abnormality. The patient was a mild diabetic controlled by diet, and his right fundus had been photographed 7 years earlier. The medullated retinal fibres were not detectable on the earlier photographs (Fig. 3) nor were they recorded in the patient's file. There was no change in corrected visual acuity of the right eye over this period.

Fig. 3 *Earlier photograph of right eye.*

Correspondence to Dr G. S. Baarsma, Oogziekenhuis, Schiedamsevest 180, 3000 LM Rotterdam, The Netherlands.