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SPONTANEOUS ABSORPTION OF MATURE SENILE CATARACT

BY

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THE following case illustrates a form a spontaneous cure of cataract which is new in my experience and may be of interest to others.

The patient, a lady about 65 years of age, had a mature cataract removed from her left eye 13 years ago by the late Dr. Cluckie of Paisley. She states that at that time the right eye was already affected, and that it became progressively dimmer, until three or four years ago when she consulted Dr. T. S. Barrie of Glasgow, and was told that she had now a mature cataract in the right eye. She has had no treatment since that date, but the vision of the right eye has gradually returned, and about two months ago she began to see double.

On examination I found that the left eye was aphakic, the pupil a little drawn towards the nasal side (a simple extraction having been performed), the media were clear and the fundus normal. Vision in the left eye with +9D.sph. $\odot$ +3.5D.cyl. axis $180^{\circ}=5/6$. Ophthalmoscopic examination in the right eye (which was slightly divergent) detected a little fine dust-like opacity in or behind the pupil. The fundus could be fairly clearly seen, and the refraction was highly hypermetropic. Vision in the right eye with +11D. sph. $\odot$ +0.5D. cyl., axis $180^{\circ}=5/12$. The result of the subjective test and of the ophthalmoscopic examination gave me the impression that the lens of the right eye was for some reason absent, but examination with the slit-lamp revealed a somewhat unexpected

condition. The lens was found to be present, its anterior surface being sprinkled with numerous fine white spots, some of them glistening almost like cholesterin crystals, and with the narrow beam it was found that this was the only lens opacity present, the rest of the lens having a uniform degree of relucency without the usual zones of discontinuity. The anterior face of the lens instead of being convex was flat, and it was further back from the plane of the iris than in the normal eye. The posterior surface of the lens had apparently its normal curve, the net result being that the lens seemed to have lost about one-third of its antero-posterior thickness.

The vitreous contained the usual lace-like membranes, and a distinct dark interval intervened between the posterior surface of the lens and a definite membrane, which one might describe as the hyaloid membrane.

The only explanation I can suggest for what has occurred in this case is that the opacity in the lens of the right eye was entirely confined to the anterior cortex, and that the opaque lens matter underwent absorption. This would account for the flattening and recession of the anterior surface of the lens, and the absence of any apparent change in the other parts of the lens.

Dr. Barrie, with whom I discussed the case, kindly consulted his notes, and was able to confirm the patient's statement that at the date when he saw her she had a mature cataract in the right eye. Although operation had been proposed nothing was done.

A CASE OF SEPTIC FOCUS IN THE RETINA OF AN APPARENTLY HEALTHY BOY AGED 15 YEARS

BY

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ON August 27, 1924, W. W., a somewhat obese Hebrew boy, aged 15 years, attended the Out-Patient Department for loss of vision of the right eye; this he had first noticed on waking the same morning. He was admitted for observation under Mr. Charles Goulden, who has kindly given permission for the case to be published.

Routine examination revealed vision reduced to ability to count fingers at three feet distance, and nothing abnormal in the media. The fundus picture is shown in the accompanying painting by Messrs. Theodore Hamblin, to whom I am indebted for the favour of a black and white print for publication. The painting