

done and the episcleral veins pricked. A corneal suture was employed and a pressure bandage applied. After operation hot turpentine stupes were applied to the abdomen, and the feet kept warm to promote circulation of the blood in the abdomen and the lower extremities.

Osmotic therapy, as suggested by Duke-Elder,⁽¹²⁾ would appear to be of definite value as a preliminary to operation, in cases of hypertension. The difficulty, however, remains with those cases in which increase of tension is not a feature.

I make no mention of post-operative glaucoma as a complication, because so few cases of this are seen, due doubtless in part to the fact that difficulty is experienced in following up cases after operation, in India.

I am indebted to Dr. Holland for the help he has given me and for the opportunity afforded me of reviewing the work done, under his direction, at Shikarpur.

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ANNOTATIONS

The Effect of Eyestrain on the Output of Linkers in the Hosiery Industry

In the April number of this year we commented on a report of the Medical Research Council on the effect of illumination in fine work (type-setting by hand). Another report of the Industrial Fatigue Board approaches the subject from another side, *i.e.*, the possible advantages of reducing the necessary accommodative work with the aid of glasses. The experimental work was done by Messrs. H. C. Weston and S. Adams, while Mr. Laws was responsible for the estimation and correction of refraction in the

subjects on whom the observations were made. The work of linking up machine-made hosiery is very fine, the operators requiring to be from five to eight inches from the machine, and, since nearly 80 per cent. of the factory work consists of linking, it is obvious that a very prolonged accommodative effort is required. The lighting conditions were tested first and found to be adequate. The output of three operatives (two experienced and one learner) was recorded for a period of four weeks in order to determine the normal rate of work under existing conditions. The operatives were then examined and fitted with suitable glasses, and their output recorded during a second period of four weeks. Charts and photographs accompany this part of the report. As a result it was found that for each subject a considerable increase in the rate of working accompanied by a reduction of fatigue was effected as a result of the use of glasses. Further, after the conclusion of the experiments the subjects continued to wear the glasses. Mr. Laws states in the appendix that the subjects were allowed to choose the sphere, which added to their estimated refraction gave them the sharpest vision at the desired distance. This varied from 0.75D. to 1.75D. No effort was made to aid convergence with a prism, though the authors suggest that this might be of even further use.

These reports of the Medical Research Council are of very great value and we trust that they will find a wider circulation than most Government publications.

Judicial Blinding

Perhaps the above title is not the best that could be chosen, since few of those who suffered mutilation by having their eyes put out in early times, probably, had any chance of a judicial hearing as we should conceive it nowadays, before the sentence was carried into execution. We do not pretend to know much about the history of the laws of the realm, but we doubt whether blinding was much used as a penalty after the days of Glanvill (1180). There can, however, be no doubt that it was frequently performed before that date. Common sense must have convinced people that a blinded man might just as well be dead and not be a tax on the community or any member of it.

Among the statutes of the Conqueror, given by Stubbs in "Select Charters" is the following: "Interdicto etiam ne quis occidatur aut suspendatur pro aliqua culpa, sed eruantur oculi, et testiculi abscondantur. Et hoc praeceptum non est violatum super forisfacturam meam plenam."