OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

ANNUAL CONGRESS, 1932, AT EDINBURGH

The Annual Congress of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom was held in the Department of Physiology of the University of Edinburgh, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 12, 13, and 14, 1932.

The proceedings opened in customary fashion with the Presidential Address; Dr. A. H. H. Sinclair chose for his subject the Intracapsular Extraction of Cataract. He dealt in detail with the pre-operative and post-operative management of these cases, and described each step of the operation. Amongst many interesting points raised by the President was the advisability of making the incision immediately after the retro-ocular injection of novocaine and adrenalin (which he always uses) on account of the tendency of the latter manoeuvre to lower the tension of the globe. He produced charts of the results of the operation, which showed that in his hands it gives a high percentage of good visual results. Dr. Sinclair employs the method in all cases of cataract extraction, and instanced as an advantage of the method, its obvious suitability in the treatment of immature senile cataract.

The Address was received with great interest; a vote of thanks to the President was proposed by Mr. Treacher Collins, and seconded by Dr. Maitland Ramsay, to which Dr. Sinclair briefly responded.

Dr. J. Urbanek, of Vienna, then read a paper on Ocular Tuberculosis. He concentrated on the specific diagnosis of tuberculosis, and gave details of the use of Toeniessen's tebeprotin, according to the method of Mantoux, which is exclusively used in his clinic, both for diagnosis and treatment. A short discussion followed.

Mr. David Lees made some observations on the use of tryparsamide in the treatment of optic atrophy due to syphilis. From his experience he concludes that the use of this drug is a definite advance in therapy, that it does arrest the process of atrophy, and that the reports of the tendency to produce amblyopia by its use are grossly exaggerated. In the course of the discussion, Mr. Paton made the relevant observation that optic atrophy may remain in statu quo for years where no treatment is being undertaken.

Mr. Maurice Whiting reported a case of Syphilitic Tarsitis. He described three types of syphilitic affection of the lid, and showed how the administration of N.A.B. to his case, in whom the Wassermann reaction was negative, brought about a rapid cure. Mr. Hine, Mr. Fisher, Dr. George Mackay, and Mr. Paton described similar cases.
DR. TRAQUAIR described the operation and end-results of External Dacryo-cysto-rhinostomy by a modified Toti’s method. His figure of 71 per cent. of non-watering eyes after operation compares well with that of 44 per cent. after simple excision of the sac. Dr. Traquair answered many questions arising out of his paper.

The afternoon session commenced with MR. MAYOU’S description of congenital absence of the corneae in a foal, and his report on a case of blood staining of the eye, both of which papers were illustrated by epidiascopic projections of microphotographs.

MR. C. EDMUND followed with a description of his investigations into the problems of Nyctalopia and Hemeralopia; he suggested the use of the term *Dysaptatio visualis* in this connection, and showed curves indicating the differing powers of distinction of his cases.

DR. CLARK SOUTER read an interesting paper on Papillomatosis Conjunctivae, which provoked a lively discussion. He demonstrated the tendency of these growths to appear in the exposed fissural area, and postulated as their origin an inflammatory reaction to the presence of a filtrable virus.

MR. CHARLES GOULDEN described two cases of Epibulbar Carcinoma, of which Mr. Whiting demonstrated the pathological side in the absence of Mr. Stallard. Mr. Collins pointed out how these growths in their behaviour supported the lymphatic permeation theory of Sampson Handley.

**Bowman Lecture**

The Bowman Lecture, on Ocular Movements, was delivered by PROFESSOR DR. J. VAN DER HOEVE. After thanking the Society for the invitation to deliver the Lecture, the Professor touched on a few incidents in Bowman’s life which illustrated the latter’s friendship with the leading Dutch ophthalmologists of his time.

Professor van der Hoeve then gave an extremely able survey of past experimental work on ocular movements, with details of his own work, and that of other present-day investigators; his lecture was fully illustrated with photographs and diagrams. The conclusion he has reached is that the conception of a fixed centre of rotation for the eye is quite erroneous; the eye goes about a movement in the easiest and simplest way for itself, and even separate fibres of the same muscle have different actions, so that another accepted idea—that a muscle acts from the centre of its origin to the centre of its insertion—must also be discarded. The lecturer’s characteristic style was, as usual, a delight to his audience; he concluded with an amusing reference to the basic ideas underlying the employment of periscopic lenses.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Treacher Collins, and seconded by Dr. George Mackay, who commented on the happiness
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of the choice of lecturer on account of the long association of Holland and Scotland.

The second day’s session commenced with a discussion upon Senile Cataract: the Pre-operative and Post-operative Management and Complications, which was opened by Dr. A. J. Ballantyne. He dealt with the varieties of technique in preparation for operation, especially in connection with the cleansing of the conjunctival sac, and reviewed the group of cases needing special pre-operative care. As to complications, while purulent infections were far fewer than formerly, the incidence of iritis on the 4th or 5th day was still much too high. The opener raised the question of the possibility of post-operative astigmatism being caused by pressure from the dressing.

Sir Arnold Lawson followed with a careful survey of some pre-operative points, and dealt in some detail with post-operative iridocyclitis, recommending full mydriasis as a preventative measure. He then discussed the question of capsular opacities and the technique of capsulotomy.

Sir Richard Cruise raised the important point of gaining the patient’s confidence, and said that he made his patient undertake to be his “intelligent assistant.”

Dr. Traquair discussed the incidence of mental derangement and death in cataract patients. Mr. Foster Moore, Lt.-Col. Lister, Mr. Whiting, and Mr. Greeves contributed remarks on the question of vitreous loss and iris prolapse; Lt.-Col. Wright and Mr. Holland spoke on post-operative iritis. Professor van der Hoeve, Mr. Hepburn, Mr. Inglis Pollock, Mr. Dorrell, Mr. Doyne, Mr. Neame and others also took part, and Dr. Ballantyne and Sir Arnold Lawson briefly spoke in conclusion.

The discussion was followed by a paper by Mr. G. F. Alexander on the Lip-Graft Operation in Trichiasis.

The afternoon was occupied by a Clinical Meeting in the Eye Department of the Royal Infirmary, at which were shown, amongst many other cases, series of cases showing the after-results of Intra-capsular Extraction, External Dacryo-cysto-rhinostomy, and Cyclodialysis. All the cases, after being examined, were described and discussed.

At the evening session, Dr. Ernest Thomson gave a detailed account of the organisation and administration of School Ophthalmic Clinics in the County of Lanark. He provided specimens of most of the papers and forms used in this work, and illustrated their use. The account was followed by an interesting discussion.

Mr. John Marshall and Dr. C. W. Graham followed with a paper upon Blindness and its Certification, the former dealing with the administrative side, and the latter with the clinical. The methods evolved in Scotland, and their application, were described in detail, and tables of results were shown. In the course of the
discussion which followed, Mr. Fisher congratulated the Scottish on their advance in this matter; Dr. Ballantyne, Dr. Clark Souter, and Mr. Leslie Paton also spoke.

The last morning of the Congress began with a paper by Mr. C. D. SHAPLAND on Retinal Detachment and Gonin's operation. He reviewed the second 100 cases operated on by this method at Moorfields, and gave tables of results, which showed a rather lower percentage of cure in this series than in the first 100. He also described seven cases of bilateral symmetrical detachment of the retina.

MR. WOLFF described a case of recurrent proptosis, which proved to be one of Cavernous Lymphangioma of the Orbit undergoing successive attacks of inflammation. Similar cases were described in the discussion which followed; interest centred in the appropriate treatment of these cases.

MR. TUDOR THOMAS gave a detailed account of five experiments lately performed by him, in the Transplantation of Scleral Tissue on to rabbit's cornea, as a result of which a definite tendency towards subsequent transparency in the scleral graft was disclosed—a remarkable fact. The paper was received with much interest.

MR. INGLIS POLLOCK gave a report on two cases of Cerebro-Retinal Familial Degeneration, which he reported as two cases of Leber's Disease at a previous Congress. He gave a résumé of his previous report, and entered into the question of the early signs in this disease. Mr. Leslie Paton raised the question of the existence of a third form of this disease in addition to the two commonly described; Mr. Collins pressed for their recognition as two very different diseases on pathological grounds.

MR. NORMAN DOTT then read two papers. The first, on Two Cases of Meningioma of the Tuberculum Sellae, illustrated the value of Perimetry in such cases, a point stressed later by Dr. Traquair. The speaker gave details of operative technique by the tranfrontal route, and the discussion turned mainly on the nerve lesions and field defects found in these cases.

The second described the successful undertaking of Intracranial Resection of the Optic Nerve in a case of Glioma Retinae, where after enucleation it was found that the section through the nerve had passed through tumour cells. Dr. Spence Meighan, to whom the case belonged, advocated this procedure in some cases even when the section was found to have passed through healthy nerve.

At the conclusion of the Congress the Annual Meeting of the Society was held. After business, which included the election of Officers for the ensuing year, was completed, Mr. Fisher proposed a
vote of thanks to Professor Sharpey-Schafer and the University authorities for their courtesy in allowing the Society to meet in the Department of Physiology, and to the President and Officers of the Society for their organisation and conduct of the Meeting, both of which proposals were carried with acclamation. Mr. Paton proposed a vote of the thanks of the Society to Miss Mann and the local members for their organisation of the exhibits in the Museum.

This meeting was followed by that of the Council of British Ophthalmologists, at which the Annual Report was presented, and business conducted.

A Scientific Museum was arranged in connection with the Congress, containing a number of interesting exhibits, which were grouped under the following headings: Pathology; Congenital Anomalies; Comparative Anatomy; Anatomy and Physiology; and Instruments.

A Trade Exhibition was also held, at which the following firms were represented: Messrs. Clifford Brown, Curry and Paxton Down Bros., Hamblin, Taylor, and Weiss.

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**Annual Dinner**

The Annual Dinner of the Society was held on Thursday, May 12, in the Royal College of Surgeons' Hall, Edinburgh; the President in the Chair. After The King had been toasted, the President, proposing the Society, remarked on the fact that this was the centenary year of Surgeons' Hall, and gave a review of the medical life of Edinburgh from early times. Mr. Paton, in an entertaining speech, embellished by many apposite Scots stories, gave the toast of the Bowman Lecturer, emphasising his delightful characteristic of friendliness; Professor van der Hoeve replied in happily chosen terms, and referred to the continuance of the long-standing relations between Dutch and British ophthalmologists. Dr. Traquair, in a witty speech, proposed the Guests, mentioning the more prominent by name; Mr. Dowden, the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, responded. Finally, Mr. Juler proposed the health of the President, which was drunk with musical honours.

The company was entertained by Dr. Simpson, who sang to the accompaniment of Professor Tovey.

**Frank W. Law.**