and also to the conjunctiva at the inner canthus. After removal of the swelling the canaliculi were curetted, the conjunctiva and skin of the inner canthus were reconstructed by a plastic procedure. Post-operative healing was uneventful.

Pathological report.—The figure is a photograph of the macroscopic appearance of the excised mass with the blackened silver style running through it. Transverse and vertical sections showed squamous epithelium overlying fibrotic granulation tissue infiltrated by plasma cells, lymphocytes and eosinophils. In some areas there were deposits of metallic pigment. There was no evidence of malignancy.

Comment

This case is an example of chronic inflammation set up by the retention of a metallic foreign body. The author recollects a specimen sent to the Pathological Laboratory at The Royal London Ophthalmic (Moorfields Eye) Hospital of an “orbital neoplasm” removed by exenteration of a socket, the eye had been excised some years before at a provincial hospital and the pathological report could not be traced. The surgeon who exenterated the socket was of opinion that the hard swelling in the orbit and the brownish-black conjunctival discharge suggested a malignant melanoma, possibly a recurrence from such a growth in the uveal tract for which the eye might have been removed. The specimen contained a blackened silver filigree ball inserted into Tenon’s capsule after excision of the eye. The interstices and centre of the filigree were filled with dense fibrous and granulation tissue. The presence of this foreign body explained the inflammation and brownish-black discharge.

Summary

The case reported is a chronic granuloma of the right lacrimal sac due to the accidental retention of a silver style for 33 years.

ANNOTATION

Incidence and Distribution of Trachoma in the United States

The sight-saving review of March, 1940, contains an interesting paper dealing with trachoma in the United States by Dr. Harry S. Grdle. He finds that trachoma is distributed roughly as follows: (a) among the American born Caucasians in endemic form; (b) among foreign immigrants; (c) among Asiatics and Mexicans who have
entered the U.S.A. illegally; (d) in sporadic form among its city dwellers without known source of contact; (e) among the American Indians. Trachoma is not uniformly reportable in the various states and there are no adequate statistics as to the total number of people infected. A map is reproduced showing the geographical distribution of trachoma cases reported in 1937, as well as a table which gives the numbers of new cases of trachoma reported in the same year. Here Illinois heads the list with 502, Missouri, 476; Ohio, 435; California, 243; Tennessee, 118; Oklahoma, 106. The lower numbers in this series contain Connecticut, Oregon and Michigan, 4 each; Virginia, 3; South Dakota, Maryland and Georgia, 2 each; Kansas, Florida and Colorado, 1 each; while Montana, Idaho and Washington reported no new cases at all.

Gradle gives a rough estimate of the trachoma cases in the United States as follows: Stage I, 4,322 cases; Stage II, 7,538 cases; Stage III, 9,012 cases; Stage IV, 12,630 cases, making a total of 33,502 cases.

Trachoma among the American Indians is considered separately. The total Indian census among the reservations is 342,500. The incidence of trachoma varies with each individual reservation from nothing among the Seminoles to 35 per cent. among the Navajos. Gradle gives a rough estimate of 25,000 cases of trachoma among the Indians.

ABSTRACTS

MISCELLANEOUS


(1) The function of the "between" brain can be studied by fine electrical stimulation and by the coagulation of small areas by diathermy. It can be shown to have a definite influence on the size of the pupil. Stimulation, even if unilateral, always produces a bilateral change in the pupils, and this is linked with other symptoms such as alteration in the size of the palpebral fissure. Mydriasis occurs on stimulation of the posterior part of the hypothalamus and miosis from stimulation of the anterior. These centres are not specific for the production of pupil changes alone but are closely linked with sympathetic and tonic nervous mechanisms.

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