THE EMPLOYMENT OF CONTACT LENSES FOR FLYING DUTIES

We have received the following notice from the Air Ministry:

Owing to publicity through columns of the Press which has recently directed attention to contact lenses as an aid to flying in the R.A.F., it is thought that the position should be clarified, so that ophthalmic surgeons prescribing these lenses, dispensing opticians manufacturing them and patients hoping that by wearing contact lenses they can obtain entry into the Service for aircrew duties, may be made aware of the true situation.

Contact lenses are used on certain rare occasions in the Royal Air Force for operational aircrew personnel of experience. The cases are specially selected, depending on their flying skill and experience.

There has never been any idea of accepting personnel into the Service with visual acuity below R.A.F. standards but which can be fully corrected by contact lenses. It is not in the interests of the R.A.F. that this should be so, or that there should be any attempt by enthusiastic applicants to escape detection at medical boards in order to serve their Country in the air. The intention may be highly creditable, but full flying efficiency is not best served in this manner.

ABSTRACTS

MISCELLANEOUS


(1) An acute inflammation of the conjunctiva with involvement of the cornea has made its appearance in epidemic form at several industrial centres in America, especially in ship yards; it has been named epidemic keratoconjunctivitis.

The following description of the disease has been issued by the U.S. Public Health Service and the Committee on Industrial Ophthalmology of the Section on Ophthalmology, American Medical Association.

The incubation period ranges from five to ten days. The onset