inferior portion of the vitreous was very cloudy. A poor red reflex was secured from the inferior half of the eye. When studied under the slit-lamp the vitreous was seen to be filled with many brick red deposits unquestionably evidence of degenerated haemorrhage. When last examined the vitreous showed signs of clearing.

About ten years ago I saw a coloured female who had an exudative chorioretinitis along with some peripheral retinal "holes" and what appeared to be a cyst, shaped like a goldfish floating in the vitreous. This structure ruptured and produced a vitreous slit-lamp picture not unlike that of the case herein reported. A hole in the macula subsequently developed in this second case.

In summary I would state that this case presentation shows the relationship of direct "head on" trauma producing a tear in the sphincter of the iris along with a rupture of the choroid. The unusual occurrence of a cyst in the vitreous of traumatic aetiology indicates the tendency toward excessive proliferation and encapsulation of tissue seen in this particular race. In most cases where there is a tear in the sphincteric portion of the iris due to "head on" injury there is more likely to occur a choroidal tear, than in cases where an iridodialysis takes place. Of course, the trauma producing the iridodialysis is not "head on" but usually lateral for the "give" occurs at the root of the iris and the zonular fibres rather than at the inner iris circle and the choroid. Wolff, who reported traumatic cysts of the vitreous in the Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom in 1942, believes that retinal cysts frequently develop following trauma and preceding formation of retinitis proliferans.

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**ANNOTATION**

Testimonials

Testimonials may be of many kinds including a gift presented to some one by a body of persons as an expression of appreciation; an affidavit, an official warrant, even a passport as given to vagrants, labourers, discharged soldiers and sailors; and a letter of recommendation of a person or thing. This last item as a definition dates from 1571 according to the Shorter Oxford Dictionary. It is the last instance that specially concerns us, for those applying for posts on the staff of a hospital have to furnish testimonials as to their capabilities for the situation.

Looking over testimonials in after life is not unlike looking through a bundle of old school reports. Some are diffuse, some
laconic. In testimonials naturally the best is made of the subject, whereas in school reports the reverse is by no means uncommon. Testimonials are not always easy to write, but the recipient need not make use of any that he does not like.

One of the best examples of a testimonial we remember to have read was given by a man to his servant. It ran somewhat in this style: "— has been my servant for six months. Anyone thinking of employing him in a similar capacity would do well to remember Mr. Punch's advice concerning matrimony." But no one ever wrote a better personal testimonial than the awful Miss Pinkerton of Chiswick Mall. She, it will be remembered, recommended Miss Tuffin and Miss Hankey for the post of governess in the family of Sir Huddleston Fuddleston. "Either was perfectly qualified to instruct in Greek, Latin, and the rudiments of Hebrew; in mathematics and history; in Spanish, French, Italian and geography; in music, vocal and instrumental; in dancing, without the aid of a master; and in the elements of natural sciences." Miss Tuffin could also instruct "in the Syriac language and the elements of constitutional law." She was only eighteen years of age and of exceedingly pleasing personal appearance. Miss Hankey, on the other hand, was twenty-nine years of age, not personally well-looking, her face much pitted with the small-pox. She had a halt in her gait, red hair and a trifling obliquity of vision. Mr. Squeers's manifesto on the educational advantages offered at Dotheboy's Hall has always struck us as the best example of recommendation for an inanimate "thing."

ABSTRACTS

MEDICAL OPHTHALMOLOGY


(1) Fink comments on the lack of precise knowledge about the toxic action of methyl alcohol. It is, as yet, not clear whether the toxic effects on the central nervous system, the liver and kidneys are due to methyl alcohol itself or to its break-down products formaldehyde and formic acid, or to a combination of methyl alcohol and these products, or possibly to some other poison at present unknown.

Clinical and experimental work have shown that methyl alcohol enters the system through ingestion, inhalation, and is absorbed by the skin. Personal idiosyncrasy plays an important part and man seems more susceptible to this poison than animals. Oxidation is