CASE NOTES

CONGENITAL EVERSION OF UPPER EYELIDS*

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ALTHOUGH a very rare condition, a case of congenital eversion of the upper eyelids has recently been reported from America by Ostriker and Lasky (1954) and Hopen (1955). I have not been able to find any case report in the British literature over the last 20 years. Mann (1937) mentions that congenital entropion and ectropion of the lids are extremely rare. Duke-Elder (1952) mentions that the lid margins may be everted in microphthalmos and buphthalmos, and cites a case in which there was congenital eversion of the lower lids associated with ptosis and epicanthus (Collins, 1915).

Case History

A full-term Arab baby 7 days old, was his mother's third child. Ocular examination showed very marked chemosis with oedematous everted upper eyelids and a moderate amount of secretion. This condition was said to have been present since birth. No other external anomaly was noted. It was difficult to examine the fundi at this stage but 2 weeks later when the lid condition was normal they showed no abnormality, neither was any found externally after careful examination. Conjunctival swabs and scrapings showed pus cells and staphylococci only.

Treatment.—Hot saline packs and terramycin ointment were applied at home as the parents declined to bring the child to the hospital. The mother was asked to keep the eyelids in position mechanically as the application of adhesive plaster had failed to achieve this. The baby had an uneventful recovery within 2 weeks.

Comment.—The straightforward normal course leads one to think that this was not a developmental anomaly. An inclusion conjunctivitis is a possibility, but was unlikely to have been the cause in this case because of the 5 to 10 days' incubation period.

Summary

A case of congenital eversion of both upper eyelids is reported. No associated ocular or general congenital anomaly was found. After 2 weeks' simple treatment the eyelids became entirely normal.

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