It is not known how the iris managed to escape without any trace from the anterior chamber. Since the zonular fibres were found to be intact, the only available escape route was the short distance of the incision which extended into the cornea at the limbus. The glass splinter which had cut the wound must have engaged the prolapsed iris at this point and have torn it out, the impinging wooden plank being only the indirect cause of the injury.

The therapy-resistant glaucoma which followed the injury is reminiscent of the glaucoma seen in congenital aniridia, though in our case no fragments of iris remained to occlude the angle. Traumatized trabeculae cannot be excluded as the cause of high tension although gonioscopically they looked normal. The assumption that the absence of an aqueous-resorbing surface is the cause of the hypertension remains conjectural.

Summary

A case is described of traumatic aniridia due to the impact of a wooden plank and a perforating corneo-scleral wound caused by broken spectacles. In spite of the severe injury, the eye recovered normal vision. The mechanism of the uprooting of the iris and its escape out of the eye, and that of the persistent secondary glaucoma, are discussed.

Reference

DUKE-ELDER, S. (1954) "Text-book of Ophthalmology", vol. 6, pp. 5789 and 6016. Kimpton, London

Rupture of the globe by a snail-shell

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An 8-year-old boy was playing with an old gun into which he had put a snail shell. The gun was suddenly fired and the shell was projected into the eyeball. Radiography showed the snail-shell within the orbital cavity. Unfortunately, the eyeball had to be excised as it was badly damaged with complete loss of vision. The cut section of the globe (Figure) shows the shell within the vitreous cavity.

FIGURE Section of globe, showing snail-shell within the vitreous cavity.