

MICROPTHALMIA WITH VERTICAL SLIT-LIKE PUPIL, AN OPACITY OF THE CORNEA, AND REMAINS OF PUPILLARY MEMBRANE

BY

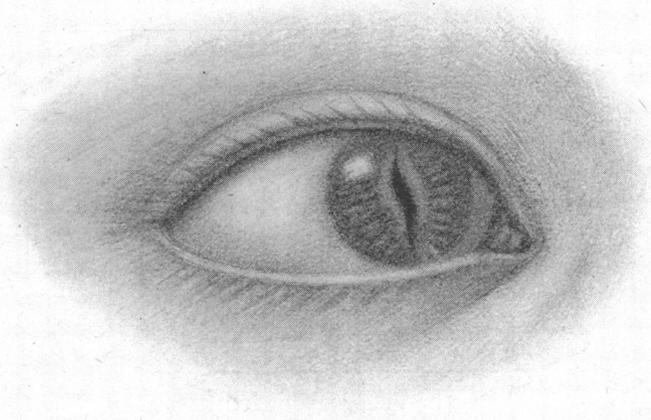
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STOKE-ON-TRENT

THIS condition was found in a school girl, Elsie C., and the following are the particulars:—

The left eye was normal, V. 6/6.

The right eye showed the ordinary appearances of microphthalmia. The cornea measured 8 millimetres in the transverse



diameter (compared with 11 millimetres for the left cornea). This eye was in a position of convergent strabismus, and the vision was 6/36 (one letter) improved to 6/24 (one letter). Refraction -3 D. sph. with -3 D. cyl. axis 180°.

A superficial oval opacity occupied part of the upper nasal quadrant of the cornea, the upper and inner border being formed by the margin of the cornea from the upper end of the vertical meridian to 2 o'clock, and the remainder of the outline of the oval by a line of similar curvature passing through the cornea and joining the extremities of this arc.

At the upper end of the vertical meridian in the anterior chamber there was a light coloured tag, broad at its base on the iris, bearing at its apex two or three filaments, one of which was longer than the others.

There were two tongue shaped areas near the lower end of the vertical meridian, apparently either in the posterior layers of the cornea or applied to its posterior surface. The artist has indicated these in the illustration.

The pupil was a vertical slit of a fusiform shape and closely resembled a button-hole with both ends pointed, the iris pattern within the circulus iridis minor corresponding with the pattern made by button-hole stitching. The illustration is from a drawing made by Mr. W. Morse, Art Teacher, Stoke-on-Trent Education Authority.

The edges of the pupillary slit were in constant movement contracting and dilating the pupil.

Under homatropin the pupil became first oval and on full dilatation round.

I am indebted to Mr. E. Treacher Collins for information regarding this defect, particularly for suggesting that remains of pupillary membrane should be looked for, and for a reference to Sir W. R. Wilde's "Essay on the Malformations and Congenital Diseases of the Organs of Sight," published by John Churchill in 1862. In this article a case of double microphthalmia is described. "In both eyes there existed irregularity of the pupil, in form as well as in position, that of the right being triangular, and that of the left being transversely oval."

ANNOTATIONS

Ophthalmic Museums

A step in the right direction has been taken by Dr. James Moores Ball, of St. Louis, U.S.A., who has given his valuable collection of specimens, books, and instruments to the Army Medical Museum at Washington, D.C. on the several conditions that it is to be kept intact, properly cared for, and is to bear the donor's name. Thus the ophthalmic treasures assembled during a period of thirty years now rest under the aegis of the Government. Under the present arrangements the collection has five divisions: 1, pictorial items; 2, gross dissections and gross pathology; 3, microscopical items; 4, ophthalmic armamentaria; and 5, rare ophthalmic literature. Several gentlemen who belong to this country, including Mr. E. Treacher Collins and Mr. J. Gray Clegg, are ready to contribute to the Ball museum. In describing the steps that have been taken Dr. Ball writes: "It is a pleasure to the writer to give to the Government something it did not possess, something it needed, and something that money could not buy." (*Journ. Missouri State Medical Association*, Jan., 1923, p. 37.)