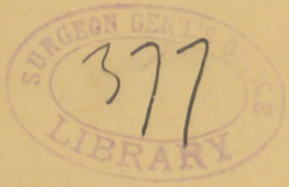


Gould. (G. M.)

Mixed astigmatism x

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MIXED ASTIGMATISM, THE RESULT OF
SEVERE INFLAMMATION OF
AN EYE.

To the Editor of THE POLYCLINIC:—

Permit me to add an interesting fact connected with the case of Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus described in your last issue, and which I have discovered since sending you the report. The eye has entirely recovered and presents a normal appearance in every respect. The skin of the lids and adjacent parts is without a trace of the usual scars, due to the use, during the herpetic inflammation, of softening, antiseptic and healing ointments. There are no iritic adhesions, and the fundus is clear and normal. But I have been interested to find that during and since the convalescence there has been an increasing amblyopia, due, as I first supposed, to some intimate lesion of the retina or nerve consequent upon the severe inflammation through which the eye had passed. The right, or unaffected eye has throughout preserved its perfection of visual acuteness, and to-day registers $\frac{2}{8}$ and J. 1 at the usual distances, without glasses. During the convalescence the vision of the inflamed eye was at one time $\frac{2}{8}$ under a mydriatic. Later it was $\frac{2}{10}$, likewise with paralyzed accommodation. At this time I only made a hurried test, owing to the weakness of the eye, but found that Sph. —1.50 D. \ominus cyl. + 1.25 S., Ax. 180°, brought the vision up to $\frac{2}{8}$. To-day, with a perfectly recovered eye, I find vision $\frac{2}{10}$ and J. 14, with difficulty. The amblyopia is now shown to be entirely due to refractive errors. I have tested the refraction both without and with paralysis of the accommodation, and find it almost identical. Sph. —1.25 D. \ominus cyl. + 3.75 D., Ax. 180° gives V. $\frac{2}{8}$, and J. 1 at 12 inches, with ease.

The fact that the patient is perfectly certain that the eyes, before his illness, were equally good, combined with the demonstrated increase of the refractive error during convalescence, shows that, as a result of the ordeal through which the eye has passed, there has been an increase of the antero-posterior diameter of the globe, and changes in the corneal symmetry, resulting in the mixed astigmatism indicated by the combined lens before mentioned.

I am, Sir, very respectfully yours,
GEORGE M. GOULD.

119 S. 17th St., Philadelphia,
Nov. 6th, 1888.

