magnitude. No evidence appeared in this survey to upset this point of view. However, one wonders if glare may not be another etiological factor. Certain it is that snow-blindness, which is a common ailment in this region, produces marked hyperæmia in pre-existing pingueculæ and pterygia.

TABLE III

VISUAL ACUITY DEFECTS UP TO 18 YEARS OF AGE

Cause	Male 59 cases No.	%	Female 68 cases No.	%	Total 127 cases No.	%
1. Visual acuity less than 6/6 in one or both eyes	5	8	12	18	17	13
2. Causes of defective visual acuity:						
(*a*) Refractive errors	3	5	11	16	14	11
i. Hypermetropia	0	0	0	0	0	0
ii. Hypermetropic astigmatism	1	2	6	9	7	6
iii. Myopia	1	2	2	3	3	2
iv. Myopic astigmatism	0	0	2	3	2	2
v. Mixed astigmatism	1	2	1	1	2	2
(*b*) Corneal scars	1	2	2	3	3	2

N.B.—Patients in (*a*) had binocular defects with exception of one case. Patients in (*b*) had monocular visual acuity defects.

Pterygium is looked upon as a degenerative process in the epithelium, Bowman's membrane, and even superficial layers of the substantia propria of the cornea. Schöninger[4] believes that the earliest change that occurs in the cornea is the appearance of small vesicle-like new formations at the points where the nerves pierce Bowman's membrane, and that these correspond to the islands of opacity seen clinically. In the present survey many patients with pterygium were examined with the slit lamp. These vesicle-like formations described by Schöninger were found in many of these cases; in many cases, they were not found or were found in cases where there was no pterygium.

In Table III is recorded the incidence of visual acuity defects in school-age Indian children and an analysis of the cases thereof. In Table IV similar data

TABLE IV

VISUAL ACUITY DEFECTS AT AGE OF 18 YEARS AND OVER

Cause	Male 103 cases No.	%	Female 70 cases No.	%	Total 173 cases No.	%
1. Visual acuity less than 6/6 in one or both eyes	28	27	24	34	52	31
2. Causes of defective visual acuity:						
(*a*) Refractive errors	12	13	15	21	27	16
i. Hypermetropia	4	4	1	1	5	3
ii. Hypermetropic astigmatism	7	7	10	14	17	10
iii. Myopia	0	0	1	1	1	1
iv. Myopic astigmatism	1	1	1	1	2	1
v. Mixed astigmatism	0	0	2	3	2	1
(*b*) Corneal scars	8	8	5	7	13	8
(*c*) Anterior staphyloma	0	0	1	1	1	1
(*d*) Pterygium	1	1	0	0	1	1
(*e*) Cataract	3	3	3	4	6	4
(*f*) Retinal disease	2	3	1	1	3	2
(*g*) Primary opticatrophy	1	1	0	0	1	1
(*h*) Amblyopia exanopsia	2	2	3	4	5	3
(*i*) Phthisis bulbi	1	1	0	0	1	1

N.B. (*f*) One macular chorioretinitis, and two pigmentary macular degeneration.

are recorded for Indians past school age. It is noticed at once that visual acuity defects greatly increase in the older group, being about twice as common as among the school children. This difference is mainly due to the vastly greater