

associated with albuminuria or casts, is pathognomonic of an intra-cranial neoplasm, or abscess.

It has been stated that the vessels of the retina are the only blood vessels of the human organism that are visible. It is easy to examine these vessels, to note their characteristics, to note the rhythm of the blood current through them, to investigate the condition of their walls. We are able to state whether the walls of the arteries and veins are healthy, or sclerosed, or even whether they are atheromatous.

Atheroma and sclerosis of the retinal vessels are commonly associated with similar states of the cerebral vessels. Inasmuch as arteriosclerosis and atheroma play an important part, especially in the chronic and the subacute diseases of advanced life, the significance of the probability of revealing the existence of such arterial and venous changes by examination of the visual apparatus need not be emphasized.

Many times have I been able to predict an early apoplexy on the evidence revealed by the ophthalmoscope; and I have been able to avert such a catastrophe through the knowledge gained by similar means.

Albuminuria in pregnancy is a symptom the gravity of which is everywhere recognized. Associated with it, dimness of vision and specks floating before the eyes are of common occurrence. Whether dimness of vision, or other subjective ocular phenomena are noted or not, in every case of pregnancy in which albuminuria has been detected, an examination of the visual organs by an expert should be made. For it is by such examinations only that the existence of optic neuritis, or the presence of retinal hemorrhages, may be detected. Such changes in the optic nerve or in the retina, whether associated or not, are portentous symptoms. They declare with no uncertain warning the impending danger of eclampsia. Moreover, a prolonged optic neuritis endangers the patient's vision; for prolonged neuritis terminates in more or less complete atrophy of the optic nerve, and, therefore, more or less complete blindness that is permanent.