

pale, patchy appearance of the fundus, which exhibited here and there solitary dots of pigment. I opened the pupil with atropine, and, on following the vessels, which were much diminished in size, towards the periphery, lost them in masses of black pigment, which formed a complete circle round the retina. This pigment was arranged in a lace like pattern. The whitish patches corresponded to denuded portions of the choroid, where the vessels were laid bare and seemed altered in structure. I had seen some similar cases at the clinique of my friend and teacher de Wecker in Paris, and recognized it as one of Pigmentary degeneration.

On inquiring into the history of the lad, I learned that his sight had been gradually failing for some time, that he could not read except in bright light, nor guide himself about with safety in the dusk of the evening. He was one of four deaf-mutes in a family of twelve children. They were all four losing their sight, and the eldest, a woman of 42, had already become blind. The other children were healthy. On expressing a wish to see more of the family, two others of the deaf-mutes came to see me. One was an intelligent young woman of 32, the other a fine lad of about 22 years. Both had been born deaf and dumb. I found them to be affected in the same way as the brother, but the disease was more advanced with them; and the girl had, in addition, in the other eye a post polar cataract. She had been a great reader. I did what I could for them—which unfortunately was not much—and saw no more of them till quite lately, when, in order to investigate their cases more fully, I followed them to their home in the country.

There I found the father still alive, an active and energetic old man of 75, who freely volunteered all the information required.

His parents, he stated, had lived to a great age, and had both been well formed and healthy. They had only taken to glasses late in life. They had had eleven children, all sound in mind and in body. Neither did their children's children (bar his own) suffer from nervous affections, deaf-mutism, or deformity—nor did he know of any such defect, in distant branches of