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OPHTHALMOLOGY AND THE GENERAL PHYSICIAN*

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The object of this paper is to bring before the general profession some of the diseases of the eye, and also some disturbances associated with the eye, which could be more satisfactorily dealt with, if earlier recognized and more clearly understood. Take acute glaucoma: This is the form in which blindness, almost or quite complete, comes on very suddenly, viz., in one hour or so, associated with agonizing pain. It may attack one or both eyes. The intense redness of the eyeball, the swollen conjunctiva, and the severe pain may cause it to be diagnosed as acute iritis, especially when the attack is limited to one eye. The treatment of iritis is most emphatically contra-indicated in acute glaucoma, or any form of glaucoma. Hence, such a diagnosis is most disastrous. In this form of glaucoma correct treatment must be at once begun, otherwise the sight is never regained. If the oculist can at once be seen, then an iridectomy is done. If, however, some delay must take place, then use a solution of eserine till the oculist arrives.

Chronic glaucoma is a very insidious disease, its chief symptoms being a slowly growing dimness of sight; sometimes a dull headache and rainbow colors about the flame are fitfully present. If this be diagnosed as a cataract and consequently nothing be done till the vision becomes very poor, it is then too late for any operative measure, and blindness, more or less complete, results. Another cause of poor sight gradually coming on, which closely simulates a slowly growing cataract, is

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