

In the premonitory stage of acute glaucoma, the increased tension of the eye-ball never reaches the third degree or extreme tension, in which the fingers cannot dimple the eye by firm pressure; it varies in degree, however, but seldom reaches more than the first degree in which there is slight but positive increase of tension.

(2.) *Rapid Increase of any Pre-existing Presbyopia.*—We know that as age advances, the “near point” recedes from the eye; in youth we can read ordinary type at a distance of less than 4 inches; but at the age of 40, in order to see the letters distinctly, we must hold the book or paper at least 7 inches from the eye. During the premonitory stage of acute glaucoma, and often before any other symptom, it is found that the “near point” usually recedes in a very rapid and marked manner; the patients, who are generally over 50 years of age, being obliged, in the course of a few months, to change their reading glasses repeatedly for stronger ones.

This rapid increase of the presbyopia appears to be due to paralysis of the ciliary muscle; the paralysis being the effect of the excessive intra-ocular pressure upon the nerves supplying the ciliary muscle.

(3.) *Venous Hyperæmia.*—In chronic glaucoma, the ciliary veins are dilated and peculiarly tortuous; but in the premonitory stage of acute glaucoma, the congestion is generally slight. A few dilated veins are generally seen running here and there over the sclerotic.

With the ophthalmoscope, we find that the retinal veins are also dilated and tortuous, but not to the same extent as in later stages of the disease.

(4.) *Cloudiness of the Aqueous and Vitreous Humours.*—In the majority of cases, during the premonitory stage, the cloudiness of the aqueous and vitreous humours is but moderate in degree; in some cases it is hardly perceptible; in others the diffuse haziness of the vitreous is so marked that it prevents ophthalmoscopic examinations.

(5.) *Dilatation and Sluggishness of the Pupil.*—In the advanced stage of glaucoma, the pupil is usually much dilated, and quite immovable; but in the premonitory stage of acute glaucoma, the dilatation is never so well marked. Upon examining the pupils of a patient, one of whose eyes is healthy, and the other attacked by the first stage of acute glaucoma, we find that the latter is slightly more dilated than the former, and responds less upon the stimulus of light.

(6.) *Periodic Dimness of Sight.*—The character of the periodic dimness of sight in this stage of acute glaucoma, may be imitated by pressing the finger upon a healthy eye. According to Donders and Soelberg Wells, the dimness of sight is caused by stagnation and fulness of the