

## Original Communications.

## CASE OF MELANOSIS OF THE EYE BALL.

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(Read before the Medico Chirurgical Society of Montreal,  
January 25, 1873.)

Mr. G., 56 years of age; very tall; of spare habit of body; top of head bald; the hair remaining being nearly white, and having lost all his teeth, looks to be much older than what he really is.

I was consulted by him in the month of August last, being requested to examine his left eye, which presented the following appearance: The conjunctiva was of a yellowish tint, traversed in all directions by enlarged blood vessels. The eyeball was slightly enlarged, and its tension increased. At the upper and inner angle of the orbit, about a quarter of an inch from the cornea, there was a slight bulging, as if the contents of the eyeball were escaping at that point. The cornea was clear and transparent, but seemed to be flattened. Iris widely dilated and pushed forward by the lens, which latter was resting against the cornea, being opaque and presenting a yellowish flocculent appearance. There was no pain in the eyeball, which could be freely pressed upon; but at times he suffered from great supra-orbital neuralgia. The diagnosis was intraocular tumor, but of what nature I was unable to determine. From the bulging and increased tension it was evident that the eyeball would soon burst, and I advised its immediate removal. He wished me to try the effect of medicine, as he very much dreaded the operation. I explained how useless that would be, and the danger of delay, and urged its immediate removal; but as it did not trouble him much, he said he would wait until cooler weather. I did not see him again for some time. As he subsequently came under treatment, it will be better that I should now give the previous history, quoting his own words:—

"I was born with different colored eyes, a black and a blue one; the left being the black one. There was no defect in the sight of either, and I used them, perhaps, excessively, until ten years ago, when I noticed them getting weaker. About this time I was attacked with neuralgia, which commenced in my right cheek, near the top. I thought it was toothache at first, as it loosened two teeth which, after a short time, fell out without pain, and not at all decayed. Soon after the neuralgia returned, and took out one or two more teeth; this was repeated until, at the end of about three years, it had gone

regularly round both jaws and taken every tooth out, not one of them being decayed. The neuralgia then mounted to the head, and the pain began to run from the left eye back to the crown. About this time, that is seven years ago, I noticed an inability to see clearly on the streets from the left side of my left eye. I was then wearing glasses, and called to ask the optician if there was anything wrong with them. He told me to see a physician, and Dr. Campbell, whom I consulted, at once said I had cataract, and advised me to cease working at my profession as an accountant, for a while, and call upon him again when it was entirely covered. Long before that occurred, it became intensely painful and inflamed, and the neuralgic pain became frightful. I called again on Dr. C., who examined the eye with the ophthalmoscope, and said that I had ophthalmia as well as cataract. At the same time, on account of the advanced state of the cataract, he could not do anything more until it was still further developed. He therefore merely prescribed a lotion to relieve the pain. From that time, over six years ago, until this summer, I have been in more or less pain all the time, having exacerbations every ten days or a fortnight. I would take a dose of some medicine, such as salts, which made the pain worse for a day or two and then better for a week, getting gradually worse within a fortnight again. But, during all this time, it was no doubt getting radically worse. At last, in July of this year, I found it unbearable. Dr. Campbell being absent I was referred to Dr. Howard, who said it must come out, but advised me to wait until Dr. Campbell returned; as it had gone so far it might be delayed until cooler weather."

As I have stated, he called upon me in August last. I did not see him again professionally until the 16th of October, when I was sent for. He had been working the day previous in his garden, and passed the evening in company with some friends at his house, and, to use his own words, "Had been more free from pain that night and for some time previous, than for several years, nor had I provoked a sudden attack by any indiscretion that I know of." In fact, he congratulated himself on going to bed, that the eye would bother him no more. Shortly after retiring he was seized with a violent pain in the eye, but, supposing it to be a return of the neuralgia, did not get up, but bore it as patiently as he could till morning; it was then discovered to be much inflamed. I saw him during the forenoon. The conjunctiva was acutely inflamed, the inflammation seeming to implicate the subconjunctival tissues; the eyelids were greatly swollen by œdema: