

by convulsions. Noyes, in his "Diseases of the Eye", gives a very interesting statement and history of a case.

My case is as follows :

The patient is a young business man, aet. 30, who first consulted me in August, 1905. His family and personal history were of the best. The single symptom of which he complained was periodic attacks of blindness in the right eye. For a year previous he had had these about once a month, and one had occurred a few moments before I saw him. Since that time they have become frequent, until lately only about ten days have separated the attacks. He describes an attack as a gradual closing in of the field of vision from the periphery till nothing can be seen and then a gradual clearing, in the reverse order, till vision is quite restored, the whole time involved being about three minutes. There is no warning of the onset, no headache before or after, and no association with any particular use of the eyes. An examination shortly after an attack does not show any variation from normal conditions. There is no narrowing of the field of vision, nor change in color sense. I have not been able to examine the eye during an attack.

Now in this case there is no suggestion of hysteria, migraine or epilepsy, so I have ventured to use the term "Vasomotor Amaurosis" as describing most accurately what likely takes place. In the case reported by Noyes an ophthalmoscopic examination was made during an attack and the arteries were found reduced in size, the veins being normal. The attack passing off in a few minutes the arteries grew larger and were then like those of the other eye. There were no signs of effusion.

The blindness is thus due to suspension of the retinal circulation in consequence of vasomotor irritation. Probably the origin of the irritation is in the superior cervical sympathetic ganglion.

The prognosis in such a case is of the utmost importance and interest. I can find no case recorded where the vision has been permanently affected. Dr. Noyes was of the opinion that the phenomenon should not be regarded seriously, and Dr. David Webster, who recently saw this case in consultation, writes that while he has seen similar cases at long intervals, he has never met one in which vision became permanently impaired.

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