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ON SO-CALLED DOUBLING OF "THE PUNCTA LACRIMALIA.

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The conditions about to be described in two rather unusual cases were found as the result of a routine ocular examination; their existence not being in any way anticipated, the element of a happy chance must be taken into consideration in their discovery. The points of similarity, as well as one or two of difference, make these cases interesting, and throw perhaps a little light on an obscure form of a congenital anomaly.

Case 1. R. R., a young man of 23 years, a painter by trade, came under my care at the Outpatient Department at the Royal Victoria Hospital, complaining of headaches and watering of the eye. He had never suffered from what is commonly known as "sore eyes," and no ocular discharge had ever been observed. He was diagnosed as asthenopic, refracted under mydriasis, and correcting glasses were prescribed. Epiphora persisting in the left eye, although his glasses had relieved his headaches, I determined to explore the lacrymal channels. While employing a Meyer's syringe, which was quite easily inserted, a tiny stream of water was emitted at a point about three mm. internal to the punctum. This orifice was on the lid margin in the same line as the punctum, the two connecting through the same canaliculus, the point of the syringe being passed from one through to the other. This second opening, however, differed, in that it appeared more like a tiny horizontal slit as though made with the tip of a cataract knife, the lips being in close apposition, and in no way everted or elevated, as one frequently finds to be the case with the punctum. A second point of interest was shown in this patient in the form of a musculo-fibrous band which extended from the point of this second orifice over the middle of the caruncle, to which it was adherent, to a corresponding point on the margin of the upper lid, constituting what we understand as a congenital symblepharon, a very unusual occurrence. By introducing the syringe and stilettes inward through the second opening, I found