

**SCLERO-CORNEAL
TREPHINING IN THE
OPERATIVE TREATMENT
OF GLAUCOMA**

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Sclero-Corneal Trephining in the Operative Treatment of Glaucoma by Robert Henry Elliot

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ROBERT HENRY ELLIOT

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IN
THE OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF
GLAUCOMA

BY

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LOGICAL SOCIETY, AND OF THE DETROIT OPHTHALMOLOGICAL
CLUB.

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REF
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OPTS

To E. C. I. E.,

TO WHOM THE AUTHOR OWES SO MUCH

To PRIESTLEY SMITH, M.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.,
Etc.

KINDLY CRITIC, AND GENEROUS HELPER, WHOSE
LIFE LONG WORK IN CONNECTION WITH GLAUCOMA
PROBLEMS HAS MADE THE WORLD HIS DEBTOR,
THIS

BOOK IS DEDICATED

BY HIS VERY SINCERE ADMIRER

PREFACE.

The present time may be spoken of in ophthalmological history as The Glaucoma Age. The magnificent work of past decades, associated with the honoured names of Priestley Smith, Lagrange, de Wecker and many other workers, has suddenly reached fruition. The underlying principle is to be expressed in the one word "Sclerectomy."

The methods proposed to carry out the common object are very various, and time alone will show which of them is the best.

To me trephining seems the ideal procedure, and though I clearly recognise that my judgment may not be, I should almost say cannot be, unprejudiced, I desire to lay my case fully and freely before the Medical Profession.

At that bar we must all be tried, and I for one have no doubt that the ultimate verdict, even though delayed, will be the just and right one, be it what it may.

Medical men have written to me from many parts of the British Isles, from our Colonies, from America and from Europe to ask questions about the procedure I have recommended for the operative treatment of glaucoma. Most of their questions have been fully answered in past articles I have written or read during the last four years. I felt that it was necessary therefore to collect all that could be said on the subject of trephining within the covers of a single volume, so that all who would could read it.

I have endeavoured to acknowledge much of the kind aid I have received, but I should be remiss if I failed to specially remember a few of my helpers.

To Mr. Sydney Stephenson I owe more than I can easily express, but in that respect I am on equal terms with a large

body of ophthalmologists throughout the English-speaking world, to whom the arrival of the monthly *Ophthalmoscope* is a looked-for event.

To my staff, whose untiring and devoted work has made possible any work I may have done, I am deeply indebted. Lieutenant Craggs has been invaluable in the after-treatment of the patients; Assistant Surgeon Taylor has assisted me in many ways, and not least by the aid of his excellent photographs. Sub-Assistant Surgeon Ranganatha Row has made the writing of the book possible by the untiring and excellent work he has put into it in his capacity of Surgical Registrar of the Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras.

To Majors Kirkpatrick and Hime I am under much obligation for their assistance in the revision of the proofs, and for many valuable suggestions.

I have to acknowledge the courtesy of the Editor of *The Ophthalmoscope*, of Messrs. Arnold & Sons, and of Messrs. Jno. Weiss & Sons in lending me the blocks of illustrations which were in their possession.

I have left till last, though far from least, my acknowledgments to Mr. Sydney Stephenson, to Dr. A. J. Ballantyne, and to Dr. Temple Smith for so kindly allowing me to include their very able articles in chapters ii and xii of the book.

ROBERT HENRY ELLIOT.

SHAWFIELD,
EGMORE,
MADRAS,
INDIA,
1913.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

Before "Sclero-Corneal Trephining" had been eight months in print, the publishers were asking for a second edition. My visit to the United States, at the very kind invitation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Oto-Laryngology, made it impossible for me to commence the task for some months. Nor was this the only cause of delay, for the year (1913) of the book's first publication proved an exceptionally full one for its writer. In it, I had the honour of taking part in a number of very interesting discussions on the subject of glaucoma. These included (1) The Glaucoma Discussion in London at the International Congress of Medicine (August, 1913), of which I was one of the openers, my distinguished colleagues being Professors Priestley Smith and Lagrange; (2) The Congress of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Oto-Laryngology (October, 1913), before which, by their kind invitation, I delivered the Anniversary Oration on Trephining; (3) The Symposium on Glaucoma, held by the Chicago Ophthalmological Society (November, 1913), in which Professors Weeks, de Schweinitz, and Jackson also took part as my fellow guests of the Society, and (4) The Oxford Congress of Ophthalmology (1913). Besides these, there have been a number of other occasions on which it has been my privilege to meet the members of various ophthalmological societies, and to take part in their deliberations on the subject of the treatment of glaucoma. In the short space of two months I had the pleasant but arduous task of performing the operation of sclero-corneal trephining on 135 eyes, in 28 hospitals, in 14 of the large towns of the United States of America; and I have also had the opportunity of demonstrating my *technique* in a number of hospitals in England.

In addition to this, I have carefully studied the very numerous recent additions to the literature of glaucoma. Some idea of the task involved may be gathered from the fact that trephining alone has claimed about five hundred references during the past three years.

The consequence of all this has been that the issue of a second edition has practically involved the re-writing of the book, and no pains have been spared to bring the treatment of the subject up to date.

The work of others has been drawn on very freely, and to the many who have written to me from Europe, America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, and the East, I tender my grateful acknowledgments, and I regret that it is not in my power to here express to each one individually my deep sense of indebtedness. I can only hope that they and others will still further help me in the future. I very greatly appreciate their assistance.

By special request of many of my American friends, I have greatly expanded Chapter V, giving very minute details of the *technique* of the procedure which I have advocated. Chapter VI has been brought well abreast of the times, the opinions and practice of others being given freely, and it is hoped impartially. Chapter XI has, thanks to Captain Gray's kindness, and to Mr. Ranganatha Row's work, been completely revised; enabling the reader to judge of the results of over four years of trephining in Madras. Chapter XII is new, and puts forward the experience and statistics of a number of well-known ophthalmologists. Chapter XV is the 'lumber-room' of the book, but it is hoped that many will consider that the 'lumber' it contains is not without value. Chapters III, IV, VII, VIII and IX have also been largely added to, or recast. A number of new illustrations have been added.

Captain W. C. Gray, I.M.S., who, since I left India, has been acting as Superintendent of the Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras, has been most kind in helping me in many ways, and not least in furnishing me with statistical and other information. To his head assistant, Lieut. Craggs, to Mr. Taylor, and to his whole staff, I am indebted very deeply, but