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cases the first perimetric indication of the process when the usual 5 mm. test objects are used is shown by a slant in the boundary of an upper temporal field and a corresponding quadrantal defect in the color The advance of this temporal field defect downward with peripheries. ultimate involvement of the macular area and encroachment on the nasal field was divided, for convenience of clinical designation, into eight stages.\* It was shown, moreover, that the recession of the defect

\*We were not the first to call attention to this particular method of progress of visual defects in cases of pituitary lesion. pointed out this manner of progressive field deformation, among them Dr. Dr. Arnold Josephson. Dr. Josephson was possibly sleet the first to demonstrate the enlargement of the sella turcica by Roentgenographic methods in a case of acromegaly, Unfortunately there had fac been no translation into English of this admirable monograph and two (Om Endoscrina Skelett after operative measures with relief of pressure took place more or less

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### STUDIES OF OPTIC MERVE ATROPHY IN ASSOCIATION

## WITH CHIASMAL LESIONS.

by

Clifford B. Walker, M. D. and Harvey Cushing, M. D.

# From the Durgical Chinic, the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Buston.

#### I INTRODUCTORY

to illustrate what we have come to designate as stages in the development of hemianopsia when produced by the pressure of hypophysial or parahypophysial tumefactions against the chiasm. It was pointed out (1) that in 31 examples of field deformation from these source they proved to be bitemporal in 26, homonymous in 12, and unclassified in 3, while in 35 there was blindness in one or both eyes, so that it was uncertain in which group, bitemporal or homonymous, they belonged; (2) that in cases of bitemporal hemianopsia it is unusual for the field defect to be bilaterally symmetrical; (3) that in the majority of the

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have seen a patient in whom a temporal defect was about equally advanced from above in one eye and from below in the other. Furthermore, in determining the presence of caeco-central scotomata and temporal islands, as well as in plotting the early changes in the peripheral fields, attention was called to the use of a series of test objects increasing in size from that representing the smallest available visual angle (1.5 min.) to the largest satisfactory size (8 degrees). Whether the variation of the field defect represented a variation of visual fiber bundles in the chiasmal region or variations in the symmetry of the tumefaction could not be definitely determined, though the latter cause was favored.

At the conclusion of our last conjoint paper the question of primary and secondary optic atrophy was briefly discussed and surmises were made as to the position of the fascicular fibers in the optic path and the order in which atrophy occurs in them. It was stated that it was often impossible to tell from the appearance of the optic disc whether or not there had been an irrecoverable destruction of the nerve, indeed, vision had been seen to return in blind eyes even when pupillary

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lesions central to the chiasm. In these longstanding cases, the secondary degeneration in the optic nerves had become well defined a scattering of and, although the degenerated areas still showed seattered undegenerated fibers, they nevertheless formed a striking contrast with the rest of the nerve. In posterior lesions of this type, one tract is interrupted entirely, while the other is functionating normally. Hence they tend to give clean-cut defects which are practically the same for small and large discs. The field defects from chiasmal lesions, on the other hand, when plotted with graded discs indicate that the interruption of the nerve fibers is much more diffuse in larger distribution, for layer discs give a proportionately wider field. Thus, from the character of the fields, from the anatomical position of the lesion, and the character of the onset of the hemianopsia, one might expect to find a more diffuse process in anterior than posterior Taboralow, his interstocked for the lesions. Indeed, it seems remarkable that a pituitary struma can in thereby, the same to though one happed doubles eventually produce a stage of vertical hemianopsia in each eye with both crossed and uncrossed fasciculi remaining under the same degree because he gles referred a he sayle takent, of pressure from the start. It was our original view that pressure

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We had hoped that by subjecting this material to accurate histological studies of the degenerated fiber bundles we might be able to supplement Henschen's maps of the course which the fasciculi from the retinal quadrants pursue through nerve, chiasm and tract. We soon found, however, that in many of our cases the atrophy in the optic nerve was either too slight to be well traced or, in more advanced cases, was too diffuse. As a matter of fact, the chiasm and tracts were often so flattened and distorted by the tumor that a sectional survey of the normal anatomical situation of particular bundles which might have undergone excessive degeneration would have been impossible.

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We found, too, that it is very difficult, without loss of orientation, to carry sections of the nerves having poorly demarked tracts through the preliminary steps necessary for microscopic study. This is particularly true of the orbital portion of the two optic nerves, which in the process of removal are necessarily detached from the intracranial portion of the pathway including chiasm and tracts. Knowing which was right and which was left nerve, however, it was possible by the aid of the macula to identify the upper and lower, inner and outer

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against the chiasm with resulting distension was the chief element in producing the field defects, but an instrument which has been de
(walker), could be vised by one of us, in which wires were woven in a way similar to the chiasmal arrangement, has led us to believe that tension as well as pressure is an important factor and we may add that Fisher also reached a similar conclusion.

Material and methods.) In a series of some 150 operations upon patients with hypophysial tumors, there have been & fatalities, most of them occurring in the earlier series at a time when unfortunately we employed less exact methods of perimetry than at present. However, fields were plotted inall of these cases, except ene or two blind, patients, on one or more occasions shortly before the operation, so that an opportunity was afforded us to compare the field defects which indicated the degree of functional disturbance with the degree of actual fiber degeneration in the nerves existing at the time. In none of these cases was there any ophthalmoscopic evidence of the secondary changes due to a choked disc, though in some of them a low grade of recent oedema was superimposed on the picture of so-called primary atrophy.

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reaction had also been lost. Thus, as has been previously pointed
out by one of us (Cushing ()), the demonstrable perimetric defects are
to be regarded rather as an evidence of physiological block than of
an anatomical destruction of the nerves, in view of the great degree
of recoverability in the transmission of light impulses on the release
of the nerves from pressure. This was further supported by the fact
that in several cases the histological examination of nerves showed
but a scattered degeneration, even though the ophthalmoscope had previously demonstrated the characteristic pallor of advanced atrophy and
the perimeter an advanced field defect.

Since the classical study of Henschen on the optic pathways did not include examples of chiasmal lesions such as we were given the opportunity to study, we wished to see whether or not the tract degenerations in our cases conformed with those which he had observed. For the interruption in the pathway in Henschen's cases was produced chiefly by cerebral tumors, capsular hemorrhages or other vascular lesions of long duration, varying from one to fifteen years - in other words, by