Punkt- und ringförmige Hornhautentartung

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In Ophthalmologica, Vol. 96, No. 1, p. 34, 1938, E. Kraupa describes, under the above title, two cases exhibiting a condition which he speaks of as “bisher unbeachtete”, but which seems to be the same as that described by George Coats (1912–1913) as “White rings in the Cornea”.

As it would appear that Kraupa is not familiar with the references to this condition which have already appeared in the literature, and as the first detailed description thereof after the date of Coats' articles was in a communication by the present writer (Ballantyne, 1938), readers may be referred to it for the bibliography available at that date. In the article in question I was able to give details of four personal cases, and referred to

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two others (Vogt 1930, Gallemaerts 1926) which probably belonged to the same category; but in discussing two cases presented by Stäliard (1936) at the Ophthalmic Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, I mentioned that over twenty cases had been published during the preceding three years. Of these, eleven were reported by Kuo Ping Kuan (1936) who discussed the probable nature of the ring-shaped opacities, expressing the view that a process of cloudy swelling or coagulation necrosis in Bowman's Membrane was followed by fatty degeneration and incrustation with mineral salts, and that the form of the opacity might be related in some way to the perforation of Bowman's Membrane by the terminal twigs of the corneal nerves.

Like most other observers who have investigated the condition with the slit lamp, he believed the opacity to be situated in Bowman's Membrane.

The suggestion made by Kraupa that the lesion shown in his Fig. 2, is a later stage of that shown in his Fig. 1, is interesting and is possibly correct, but these two pictures were observed in two separate cases. Up to the present, the evolution of the white ring has not been followed out in any one case.

The fact that the tissue intervening between the white points is transparent, as pointed out by Kraupa, favours the view that the ring-shaped lesion does not represent a change in a pre-existing cicatrix, and, along with the facts referred to in my article, makes it extremely unlikely that injury is the cause.

The histology of this condition still requires elucidation. Uyama (1936) and Muramatsu (1935, quoted by Uyama) have attempted its solution, but with inconclusive results. They agree, however, in placing the lesion beneath Bowman's Membrane.

It must be admitted that neither the etiology, the pathogenesis nor the histology of this condition is yet understood.

References.

Coats (1912), Trans. Ophth. Soc. U.K. XXXII 52; (1913), Proc. Roy. Soc. Med. VII. –

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