Spontaneous Cavity Formation in the Cornea in Keratoconus

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A woman, aged 20 years, suffering from asthma and constitutional eczema, had had photophobia and profuse lacrymation of the right eye for a few weeks. The visual acuity had been bad in both eyes for a considerable time, so that she was no longer able to read.

The right eye showed pericorneal redness and a turbid cornea with an enormous central thickening. The swollen parenchyma contained a large multi-locular cavity, which was connected with the anterior chamber. The left eye exhibited marked keratoconus.

After 2 months of palliative treatment the visual acuity of the right eye was improved to 0.5 without correction. Only a central nebula remained of the phenomena mentioned.

In the meantime, the left keratoconus had remained stationary.

A few cases of cavity formation in the cornea in the presence of keratoconus, as a special form or a complication of acute keratoconus, have been described, and M. Schmidt published a diagram of the slitlamp picture (Klin. Mbl. Augenheilk. 101, 36, 1938).

Van Veelen (Ophthalmologica 112

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1946) presented a few histological-anatomical preparations of cavity formation in the cornea of unknown origin

which were similar to those seen in the case we observed. I assume that Van Veelen's

patient also showed this peculiar form of keratoconus

and that the preparations published therefore represent the histological picture of this rare abnormality.