Answer to Dr. H. R. Flieringa's article "Shortening of the Eyeball"

R.

Castroviejo

New York

In the April 1958 issue of Ophthalmologica (135; 255–260), Dr. H. J. Flieringa published an article "Shortening of the Eyeball", in which he commented on a paper by an American ophthalmologist whose name he had forgotten. This paper, as Dr. Flieringa correctly stated, described a method of shortening the sclera by placing a few wound clips on the eyeball and then compressing them so that they folded the sclera outward. Dr. Flieringa stated that this method would "leave the fate of the choroid and retina obscure" and added "In my opinion it is almost inevitable that these two membranes would be implied in the folding, and if so, this method of reefing is utterly useless".

In the first place, Dr. Flieringa could quite easily have searched the literature for the name of the American author. Had he done so, he would have found a paper, "New Clips and Clip-Appling Forceps for Sclera! Shortening Procedure" by Ramon Castroviejo, published in the May and June 1956 issue of the Transactions of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology.

In the second place, Dr. Flieringa does not seem to have conducted any experiments with this method or to have used it clinically. To condemn a method without practical experience on purely theoretical grounds seems rather unscientific.

During the past three years I have treated over thirty selected cases of retinal detachment by folding the sclera outward and maintaining the folds with titanium clips. The titanium clips have been very well tolerated, and the operation has held the retina in good position in over fifty per cent of all cases. Fortunately for the patients these results prove that the operation is not "utterly useless".

It is possible, as Dr. Flieringa assumes, that the choroid is included in the fold. I have not been able to verify this possibility either experimentally or by microscopic examination of eyes which have been treated by this method. Since the results are satisfactory,

Answer to Dr. H. R. Flieringa's article "Shortening of the Eyeball" 275

it seems of little consequence whether or not the choroid is included. The retina, however, definitely is not included in the fold. This fact is very easily verified by ophthalmoscopic examination both during and after the operation.

The article to which Dr. Flieringa referred was a preliminary report. I have delayed making a fuller report until I had a larger group of cases treated by this method, and until enough time had elapsed to prove that the presence of the foreign material in the orbit would be innocuous. Since I have now found that the titanium clips are very well tolerated and that the results of the operation compare favorably with those of other methods using foreign materials, I am planning to present a more complete report in the near future.

Ramon Castroviejo, M.D.

Gesellschaftsberichte – Society Transactions – Sociétés

Bericht über die 61. Zusammenkunft

der Deutschen Ophthalmologischen Gesellschaft

in Heidelberg vom 8. bis 12. September 1957.

(II. Fortsetzung und Schluß)

Unter Benutzung von Autoreferaten erstattet von H.J. Kiichle (München).

Sechste wissenschaftliche Sitzung der DOG am Donnerstag, dem 12. September 1957, 8.30 Uhr vormittags (Einzelvorträge).

1. A. Esser (Düsseldorf): Graefe im Jahre 1857.

Es wird Albrecht von Graefes Lebensbild im Querschnitt des Gründungs-jahres 1857 gezeichnet, dessen Besonderheiten für sein ganzes Wirken und Schaffen als kennzeichnend herausgestellt werden.

2. / . Schmidt (Bloomington, USA): Zur Sichtbarkeit von Erdsatelliten mit bloßem Auge. Mitteilung von Berechnungen über die Sichtbarkeit von kugelförmigen Satelliten von 50 cm Durchmesser für das bloße Auge. Deren Position in bezug auf den Beobachter kann durch drei Koordinaten festgelegt werden; durch ihren Meridian ihren Zenithwinkel und durch die Entfernung vom Beobachter.