A New Optotype Chart

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The design of an E-hook chart for the testing of the visual acuity, introduced in 1967, has generally been accepted reasonably well¹. The main objection was the number of optotypes in the lines for the highest visual acuities. An essential shortcoming is also that the E-hook is not suitable for subjective refraction. Taking all aspects into consideration an optotype chart was developed in which practically all desirabilities and possibilities have been united.

The new letter chart (fig. 1) consists of a number of components: (1) A series of highly varied capitals (variants of the so-called Antiqua letter type) in a geometric progression. Subjective refraction is possible on these letters. Each successive line represents a visual acuity about 25 % better than the preceding one. On the one hand, the pluriformity makes learning by heart impossible, and on the other, enables a reliable check on the accuracy of the subjective correction found. (2) A series of Pflüger's E-hooks in an arithmetic progression. These E-hooks are suitable for the standardized determination of the visual acuities of literate and illiterate persons. Both series go as far as visual acuity 2. Both optotypes have no built-in factor for the so-called mutual separation, in contrast to the 1967 design. (3) There are three circles and a fan-shaped illustration between the two series. The circles may be used both for the cross cylinder of subjective refraction and for the simultaneous test according to Biessels. The fan figure also serves for another method of subjective refraction (haze method).

The optotype chart has a front side for use at 5 m and a reverse side in mirror script for use at 2.5 m. If desired, a folded copy is available for

¹ Jonkers, G. H.: A new E chart. Br. orthop. J. 24: 126 (1967).

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