Complications in Modern Ophthalmic Surgery

Developments in Ophthalmology

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W. Straub, Marburg a. d. Lahn

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Complications in Modern Ophthalmic Surgery

Volume Editor
I. Strempel, Marburg a. d. Lahn

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Preface

This issue comprehends the lectures of a Symposium performed in Marburg on January 18th, 1986 in honour to Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. W. Straub, director of the University Eye-Clinic in Marburg, due to the 65th anniversary of his birthday. The theme 'Complications in modern ophthalmic surgery' reflects one of his most consistent scientific and educational efforts: promoting modern ophthalmic surgery techniques as well as being always aware of their risks.
This meeting of collegues, co-workers, and pupils was an expression of gratitude to Prof. Straub, their unique teacher.
This short symposium which is far from claiming a certain completion of presenting all ophthalmic surgery problems, tries, however, to cover a broad field of complications by competent German authors. Common difficultie of intraocular lens implantation are discussed as well as special problems with silicone oil or gas injections in retinal detachment surgery. The order of the 19 contributions follows anatomical criteria. At the end juridical
implications of all such complications are discussed.

I. Strempel

Acknowledgments

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. W. Straub, the series editor, and S. Karger Publishers deserve special thanks for enabling the publication of this issue.

Wolfgang Straub 65 Years

Congratulations to Prof. Dr. med. Dr. med.h.c. Wolfgang Straub

We are glad that we may celebrate this day. It cannot be taken for granted that a man is able to spend his 65th birthday happily among his friends and disciples. All of us came to congratulate, and to bring their best wishes for you and your family. This year, Prof. Straub has also been in Marburg for 25 years. Therefore, this is the right day to remember common

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events and work as well. Clinical and scientific work brought us together and by that we became friends.

Such address should not omit biographical data: Wolfgang Straub was born on December 29th, 1920 in the Swabian town of Mttlingen. At least in 1939 the sunny time of his youth was over. His career in medicine, which is the most prominent feature of his life for us, began during wartime. Instead of enjoying the freedom of student life in the romantic towns of Tubingen or Marburg, he had to wear the uniform of the army, partly at universities already marked by the events of the war, partly on the different theatres of the war operations. Nevertheless, in time he passed his university exams, and in 1945 he was promoted doctor of medicine.

In 1946 Dr. Straub became member of the staff of the Eye Clinic at the University of Tubingen, and by that devoted his life to ophthalmology. In the years after the war, the clinics and institutions of the German universities were rebuilt. Both the time of the national-socialistic regime and the war had brought losses of the human, intellectual and real substance to the formerly famous German universities that nowadays can hardly be imagined. The men and women of that time rebuilt the universities and resumed international scientific relations. Wolfgang Straub was one of them.

From his ophthalmological teacher, Prof. Stock, he learnt not only to do
accurate clinical work but also to like histopathological investigations. In these early years, about 20 histopathological studies were published. In a number of clinical and experimental papers, the toxoplasmosis of the eye was investigated from different points of view. At that time already, he suggested that many cases of cho Doretinitis were caused by an infection with Toxoplasma gondii - an opinion which is generally acknowledged today. A few years later, Straub had published several books and papers on electroretinography. In electroretinography, he was a pioneer and developed this new field of research in visual physiology to be used in clinical ophthalmology.

We are aware that this chapter of clinical electrophysiology opened by Wolfgang Straub has not yet been closed. In 1953, Straub left his Swabian homeland and followed his 'Oberarzt' Hans Sautter northwards to Hamburg, where Sautter was appointed director of the large eye clinic at the university. This was a good decision, for Sautter was one of the most prominent ophthalmologists of our times. At Hamburg, the young Oberarzt Straub grew to become a great clinician. In 1954 he received the venia legendi in ophthalmology, and in 1960 he was appointed associate professor. Many papers and some books gave evidence of his career. In addition to further publications on toxoplasmosis and electroretinography, two books were published.

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the newly developed technique of ophthalmological photography to record diseases of the eye, he published together with Rossmann the 'Atlas of the diseases of the anterior segment of the eye' and with his chief Sautter 'The photographed eye fundus'. It is a pleasure to read old papers by Straub, his endowment of observation and his style had already been fully developed.

In 1961 Prof. Straub moved to Marburg/Lahn and became chief of the eye clinic at the Philipps University. As a well-trained clinician and a hard-working person, he was exactly the right man in the right place. He took over a well-kept house and managed it easily, but systematically. As Prof. Straub was known to be a specialist in retinology by his publications on clinical electroretinography, some special cases were referred to the university eye clinic in Marburg.

Straub is a devoted academic teacher. His lectures are excellent, and scientific research has been supported. Ophthalmic histopathology was carried on by the unforgotten Joe Henry Rodenhuser, H.J. Trojan, J. Freund and Ilse Strempel. Strabismology was investigated by Aust and later by Welge-Lssen, whereas Reim, Helga Cattepoel, Welge-Lssen and Turs studied the biochemistry of the eye. Everybody who had worked for some years at the university eye clinic in Marburg, someday was asked by his chief to write a paper on an immediate clinical problem. So, during the years, a
number of interesting clinical papers were published.

Some of the important qualities of Prof. Straub are to be mentioned: He is usually present in the clinic, hardworking, and always ready to help. To each member of his staff, he is a loyal and absolutely reliable partner. This attitude was not without rewards. Over the years, a good number of his disciples were brought to an academic career: Rodenhuser, Barbara Schmidt, Aust, Reim, Welge-Lssen, Turss, Weder, and Ilse Strempel. Prof. Straub not only stimulated his staff for scientific work, but was also very active for himself. He usually supervised some students, who worked for their doctoral thesis. He also used to give papers on regional, national and international ophthalmological meetings. In addition to his daily work in the clinic, he wrote more books, for example, the 'Augenspiegelkurs' and the two volumes of 'Die ophthalmologischen Untersuchungsmethoden', and wrote some important chapters for different books. Moreover, for many years Prof. Straub was editor of Graefes Archives for Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology, co-editor of the Deutsches rzteblatt, and coordinating editor of Ophthalmologic. Now he is editor of Developments in Ophthalmology. In 1976 and 1977 he was president of the German Ophthalmological Society

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and organized, in 1977, a very important congress with the main topic 'Plastics in ophthalmology'. Also, smaller, regional meetings at Marburg, with Prof. Straub acting as chairman, are well remembered for their intelligently selected topics, such as 'Problems of glaucoma' (1970) and 'Diagnostic errors' (1976). Because of his excellent knowledge of foreign languages, Prof. Straub is well known internationally. Every year he has attended the congress of the French Ophthalmological Society in Paris. Since 1980 he is 'dgu tranger', the speaker of the German members of the French society. In 1972 he was awarded the honorary doctor of medicine by the University of Clermont-Ferrand, in 1979 he was decorated with the gold medal Jean Chibret of the French Ophthalmological Society, and in May 1985, Prof. Straub was elected member of the French National Academy of Medicine, which was an honour that could hardly be underestimated. It had only been awarded to a few German personalities, like Bunsen, Helmholtz, Virchow (1867), Robert Koch (1899), Emil von Behring (1900), Hirschberg (1903), Paul Ehrlich (1905) and Marchionini (1965). Likewise in the English-speaking world, Straub is not a stranger. Already in 1954 he gave a talk at the International Congress of Ophthalmology in New York City. In 1978 he was appointed to the International Council of Ophthalmology, and in 1982 was elected its vice-president. Since 1984 he has been a member of the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis.
Considering all the honours, titles and awards Prof. Straub has received, it is surprising that he achieved all these besides his daily clinical work, which we came to know by our own experience. Yet there is an ally in the background who secures his retreat: Mrs. Sybil Straub, his wife, the French-born lady, who has been his companion over the years, thinking and feeling with him, always present. Such a partnership has formed a solid basis, to give intellectual and psychological freedom to do good work. Prof. Straub has accomplished his personality by serving the ophthalmological science, and accumulated vast knowledge, great skill and experience - an intellectual wealth, that will never vanish. As a good academic teacher he has passed on his knowledge on every occasion, at first and always to his disciples. This generosity created a friendship and admiration which has been full of life over decades. The following scientific papers are dedicated in friendship to him by his disciples.

Aachen Martin Reim