TOBACCO AMBLYOPIA.

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TWENTY cases of tobacco amblyopia having come under my care during the past twelve months at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, I think they may prove a useful addition to Mr. Shears' list of cases, published in the number of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for June 21st, 1884. I have arranged the cases in the convenient tabular form suggested by Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson. The chief points relied on in the diagnosis, were (a), Rapid failure of sight with no ophthalmoscopic or other change to account for the great loss of vision; (b), Central colour scotoma; (c), Excessive smoking.

Of the twenty cases, all improved considerably, and in thirteen complete recovery may be said to have resulted. In one instance the patient was a woman (the only one that has ever come under my notice suffering from tobacco amblyopia), another was a teetotaler, and four chewed as well as smoked; but in no instance have I met with a case of amblyopia in a person who used tobacco for chewing only.

As regards treatment, the essential point was the total discontinuance of smoking, instead of diminishing the quantity and quality of the tobacco, as suggested by some writers. In half the cases strychnine was administered, in the other half a placebo, with apparently equally good results. Galvanism was tried in three cases, but with no appreciable effect. After recovery, three or four pipes of mild tobacco daily, were allowed, but a caution was given that excessive smoking would be likely to produce a return of the amblyopia. In my experience optic atrophy has never resulted.

Name and Age.	Duration of Amblyopia.	Vision at First Visit.	Subsequent Vision.	Amount of Tobacco used.	Ophthalmoscopic Changes.	Central Colour Scotoma.	Treatment.
J. J., 40	8 months	R. $\frac{6}{60}$ J. 10 L. $\frac{6}{60}$ J. 10	In 6 months R. $\frac{1}{12}$ J. 2 L. $\frac{1}{12}$ J. 2	1 oz. of shag daily for many years, did not chew, and drank very moderately	No change to be seen	For red and green	Placebo. To leave off Tobacco entirely.
A. M., 45	9 "	R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 8 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 8	In 10 months R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of shag daily for 20 years, did not chew, and drank but little	" "	" "	" " "
G. H., 50	6 "	R. $\frac{4}{60}$ J. 10 L. $\frac{4}{60}$ J. 12	In 6 months R. $\frac{1}{12}$ J. 2 L. $\frac{1}{12}$ J. 12	Smoked almost constantly, chews occasionally, and drinks a good deal of spirit	Disks pale	For red, green doubtful	" " "
G. N., 43	12 "	R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 6 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 6	In 8 months R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1	1 oz. of shag daily for many years, did not chew, and drank only at meals	Disks hyperæmic	For red and green	" " "
F. D., 39	9 "	R. $\frac{4}{60}$ J. 12 L. $\frac{4}{60}$ J. 16	In 9 months R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 6 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 8	Always smoking, cavendish chiefly, chews a good deal, drinks moderately	Disks slightly pale on temporal sides	" "	" " "
S. W., 35	12 "	R. $\frac{5}{60}$ J. 16 L. $\frac{5}{60}$ J. 16	In 9 months R. $\frac{1}{12}$ J. 2 L. $\frac{1}{12}$ J. 4	3 oz. of shag weekly, does not chew, and is a teetotaler	Disks pale	For red	" " "
G. J., 39	5 "	R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 6 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 6	In 6 months R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1	Nearly always smoking, does not chew, drinks only at meals	No change to be seen	" "	" " "
B. B., 40	11 "	R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 6 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 6	In 5 months R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1	About $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of shag daily, does not chew, drinks irregularly	Disks hyperæmic	For red and green	" " "
W. A., 50	10 "	R. $\frac{6}{60}$ J. 8 L. $\frac{6}{60}$ J. 8	In 9 months R. $\frac{1}{12}$ J. 2 L. $\frac{1}{12}$ J. 2	1 oz. of shag daily, for last 20 years, does not chew, but drinks a good deal, chiefly beer	Disks slightly pale on temporal sides	" "	" " "
J. G., 52	6 "	R. $\frac{5}{60}$ J. 12 L. $\frac{5}{60}$ J. 12	In 12 months R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 6 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 4	Smokes a good deal, chiefly shag	Disks pale	" "	(This patient is a woman still under treatment).
S. T., 50	9 to 12 "	R. $\frac{5}{36}$ L. $\frac{5}{36}$	After 6 months R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1	About $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of shag daily, did not chew, and drank moderately	No change to be seen	Red (?)	Strychnine. To leave off Tobacco entirely.
W. T., 48	6 "	R. $\frac{5}{60}$ J. 10 L. $\frac{5}{60}$ J. 10	After 8 months R. $\frac{1}{12}$ J. 2 L. $\frac{1}{12}$ J. 4	Always smoked a great deal, cavendish chiefly, did not chew, but drank several pints of beer daily	Disks hyperæmic	Red and green	" Still under treatment.
J. J., 43	7 or 8 "	R. $\frac{5}{36}$ J. 8 L. $\frac{5}{36}$ J. 8	In 6 months R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1	1 oz. of shag daily	No change to be seen	" "	" " "
J. K., 47	5 "	R. $\frac{6}{60}$ J. 8 L. $\frac{6}{60}$ J. 18	In 9 months R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 18	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of shag daily, chewed a great deal, and drinks much	Disks pale on the temporal sides	" "	" " "
G. S., 32	14 "	R. $\frac{5}{60}$ J. 10 L. $\frac{5}{60}$ J. 12	In 12 months R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 2 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 2	1 oz. of shag daily, did not chew, and drank only moderately	" "	Red	" " "
F. W., 36	6 "	R. $\frac{5}{60}$ J. 18 L. leucoma	In 8 months R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 4	Nearly always smoking	No change to be seen	Red and green	" " "
W. J., 49	9 "	R. $\frac{5}{36}$ J. 8 L. $\frac{5}{36}$ J. 8	In 6 months R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1	About 3 oz. of shag weekly, did not chew, but drank a good deal	" "	" "	" " "
T. W., 51	2 "	R. $\frac{4}{60}$ J. 8 L. $\frac{4}{60}$ J. 10	In 2 months R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 6 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 8	Nearly always smoking or chewing, drinks but little	Disks pale on the temporal sides	Red (?)	" And galvanism, still under treatment.
E. S., 48	8 "	R. $\frac{4}{60}$ J. 18 L. $\frac{4}{60}$ J. 18	In 9 months R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 10 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 1	About 1 oz. of shag daily, and frequently gets drunk, does not chew	" "	Red and green	" " "
S. G., 44	12 "	R. $\frac{4}{60}$ J. 16 L. $\frac{4}{60}$ J. 16	In 3 months R. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 10 L. $\frac{4}{36}$ J. 10	Smokes constantly	No change to be seen	" "	" " "