UVEITIS 75 YEARS AGO

David Kaufman

Curator RANZCO Museum
Chronic bacterial infection was rife with TB and Syphilis causing granulomatous uveitis.

Recurring Streptococcal throat, Prostatitis, Cystitis were frequent chronic infections with associated reactive uveitis.
1940

- No specific treatment for TB or Syphilis at that time
- It would be 15+ years before Steroids become available
- 20 years immunosuppression
- 60 years targeted immune therapies
DIAGNOSIS

The Gullstrand Slit lamp was widely used in 1940.
EXAMINATION

Introcular pressures were measured by Schioetz tonometry
EXAMINATION

Ophthalmologists often relied on loupes
AETIOLOGICAL TREATMENT

- General treatment was aimed at finding a focus of infection and its removal

- “Eliminative treatment is best instituted by a smart saline purge”
AETIOLOGICAL TREATMENT

- Teeth and tonsils removed
- All presumed foci of infection were drained or removed
LOCAL THERAPY

- **Local applications of heat** aiming to raise temperature of anterior chamber to 42°C
- Foments, poultices, Maddox electric pads on the lids
- Leeches applied to brow to reduce inflammation
IRRIGATION

Undines and eye baths were used to provide some comfort.
POCKET CASE DISPENSARIES
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS FREQUENTLY MIXED AND DISPENSED DRUGS FROM MINIATURE PHARMACIES

Drugs in tablet form with mixing beaker, glass rod and camel hair brush
MOORFIELD'S PHARMACOPEIA

GENERAL FORMULÆ.

Guttae Physostigmine.
(Synonym:—Guttae Eserine).
Take of
Physostigmine Sulphate ... ½, 1, 2 or 4 grains.
Sterilised Water ... to 1 fluid ounce.
Dissolve.

Guttae Pilocarpine.
Take of
Pilocarpine Nitrate ... 1, 2 or 4 grains.
Sterilised Water ... to 1 fluid ounce.
Dissolve.

Guttae Zinci Chloridi.
Take of
Zinc Chloride ... ½, 1 or 2 grains.
Sterilised Water ... to 1 fluid ounce.
Dissolve.

Guttae Zinci Sulphatis.
Take of
Zinc Sulphate ... ½, 1 or 2 grains.
Sterilised Water ... to 1 fluid ounce.
Dissolve.

Guttae Zinci Sulphatis cum Adrenalinii.
Take of
Boric Acid ... 10 grains.
Zinc Sulphate ... ½, 1 or 2 grains.
Solution of Adrenalin Chloride ... 1 fluid drachm.
Sterilised Water ... to 1 fluid ounce.
Dissolve and mix.
HEAT AND FEVER THERAPY
ADAPTED FROM FEVER THERAPY FOR NEUROSYMPHILIS, THESE EXTREME MEASURES HAD MANY PROONENTS

“"A valuable method of elimination is through the skin, the induction of profuse sweating augmented by subcutaneous injection of pilocarpine “ Duke Elder

- Induced hyperthermia in heat cabinets
- Malarial crises
PROTEIN SHOCK THERAPY

20 ml milk injected intramuscularly
PROTEIN SHOCK THERAPY

This controversial and painful treatment induced:

- Fever, erythema leukocytosis
- Its mode of action was postulated to stimulate endogenous steroid production
PUPIL BLOCK

Pupil block was treated by Atropine and Iridotomy

Graefe quadripuncture of iris created 4 iridotomies
FISTULIZING SURGERY

Fistulizing surgery was used as a last resort for uveitic glaucoma.