DIASTASIS OF THE OPTIC NERVE

Harry W. Slade, M.D.,* and Robert D. Weekley, M.D.

Departments of Surgery (Neurosurgery) and Ophthalmology, Western Reserve University School of Medicine at Cleveland City Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio

(Received for publication January 14, 1957)

Anomalies of the optic nerve are not rare. The optic disc, the intraocular portion of the nerve, has many variations in structure and many forms that are termed anomalous. They are readily observed with the ophthamoscope. The other three portions (intraorbital, intraosseous and intracranial) perhaps are just as frequently anomalous, but are seldom observed.

Duke-Elder,1 under the term "division of the optic nerve," introduces a brief discussion of this condition as follows, "As a rare anomaly the optic nerve may be divided into two strands, of which the smaller accessory bundle contains the uncrossed fibres. . . ."

No attempt has been made at an exhaustive survey of the literature, but the only similar anomaly described with an illustration is reproduced herewith (Fig. 1).2

Fig. 1. Splitting of the right optic nerve and right optic tract described by Ganser2 in 1882. It was felt that the uncrossed fibers composed the anomalous bundle.

* Present address: 2224 Washington Avenue, Waco, Texas.

571
Figs. 2 and 3. Photographs of the diastasis (1) and anomalous vessel (3). The diastasis measures 5 mm. in length.