





wishing all the Joys of the season to our many friends.

J. W. Smith Agency
&

New Bern Insurance Agency



## Merry Christmas

Eternal peace and happiness is our sincere hope for each of you this holiday and all the year through.

Hayes Food Center

## THE SEARCH FOR HEALTH

A REPORT FROM
THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

## Cataracts

A cataract is a clouding of the lens of the eye which interferes with vision. As a cataract forms, the lens changes from clear to milky white. This impedes the passage of light to the retina, the tissue at the back of the eye which transmits visual impulses to the brain.

Fortunately, cataracts need not mean blindness for most people. Surgery to remove the opaque lens is successful in 95 percent of cases and is possible even in very elderly patients if their general health is good. Cataracts cannot be treated with drops or other medications, and there is no known way of preventing the most common form of cataracts, those associated with advancing age.

It is no longer necessary to wait for a cataract to "ripen". In fact, an overly mature cataract can make extraction more difficult. Surgery is not advisable, however, for some patients because of other eye conditions.

The timing of the operation largely depends upon the patient's particular visual requirements. When both eyes are involved doctors often try to schedule separate operations so that the patient has the use of one eye at all times. After removal of the lens, eyeglasses enable a patient to read and to perform his daily activities quite normally.

Contact lenses give the best visual correction and the possibility of wearing them should be discussed with the doctor.

If there is a cataract in only one eye and it is removed, the images seen by the operated eye and the normal eye may not fuse. Physicians therefore sometimes recommend waiting until the cataract develops in the second eye and both lenses can be removed.

Cataracts occur more often among people over 55 than in younger persons. However, many live to an old age without them.

Conditions other than aging may also cause cataracts. Children are sometimes born with them as a result of genetic or prenatal factors. Diabetes and other metabolic defects, radiation exposure, and injuries to the lens may cause cataracts. Those resulting from complications of other disorders are called "secondary cataracts".

Scientists at the National Eye Institute, a component of the National Institutes of Health, and others supported by Institute grants have learned much about how cataracts form. One Institute grantee has been able to induce in laboratory rabbits the kind of cataract associated with diabetes. Subsequently he has been able to block the formation of such cataracts after induction had begun.

Other research is underway to identify the cause of cataract by learning more about the metabolism of the lens. The goal of such research is the ultimate prevention of this disease.

## Utah?

Utah has more than 80 natural bridges formed by the erosion of wind and water upon sandstone, including 278-foot-long Rainbow Bridge, which is a National Monument



AT THIS BLESSED TIME - MAY JOY ABIDE WITH YOU.

NEW BERN HOBBY SHOP





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