

TESTING VISUAL ACUITY.

Visual acuity (V.A.) is usually tested by means of a Snellen's Test Type, which is used to assess distance vision. Distance vision in this instance is identified as the reading ability of a person placed between 5 and 6 metres (15 and 20 feet) away from the test object.

TO TEST VISUAL ACUITY.

The patient is asked to stand between 5 and 6 metres away from the test type which is placed in a well illuminated area. The patient's RIGHT eye is covered and the patient asked to read down as far as possible on the test card. Each letter on the card has a number beside it and the visual acuity is written as a fraction. i.e. $\frac{\text{The distance from the test type}}{\text{The figure beside the last letter or letters read}}$

viz. LEFT V.A. $\frac{6}{12}$

The patient's LEFT eye is then covered and a similar procedure carried out, the visual acuity will be written as

R.V. $\frac{6}{36}$ L.V. $\frac{6}{12}$

Should the patient wear glasses the vision is tested with and without glasses and the result noted accordingly.

If the patient is unable to see the test type at 6 metres he is brought closer to the test card e.g. to 3 metres and the distance altered i.e. R.V. $\frac{3}{36}$

36

The patient who is unable to read any of the letters on the test card should be asked to count fingers at a distance of 1 metre and this would be recorded as

R.V. C.F. at 1 metre

If this test is unsuccessful then vision would be assessed as firstly perception of hand movements at 1 metre (H.M. at 1 metre) or secondly by shining a torchlight on to the eye to assess perception of light (P.L.) *

In children or others who " do not know their letters" the E test is used.

The subject is asked to place the model E in the position of the last E which he can see on the chart. The fraction denoting V.A. is then written in the usual way