

*Colonel Henry Smith  
and the  
Smith-Indian technique*

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# *Colonel Henry “Jullundur” Smith (1859-1948)*



*Colonel Henry Smith in formal military attire.*

**“Big – mentally, morally and physically.”**

*Obituary, Indian Pioneer*

- Educated at Queen’s College, Galway and Royal University of Ireland
- Served in the Indian Medical Service for 30 years (1890-1920)
- Stationed in Jullundur and Amritsar
- Ophthalmic and general surgeon

# *Extraction of cataract in the capsule*

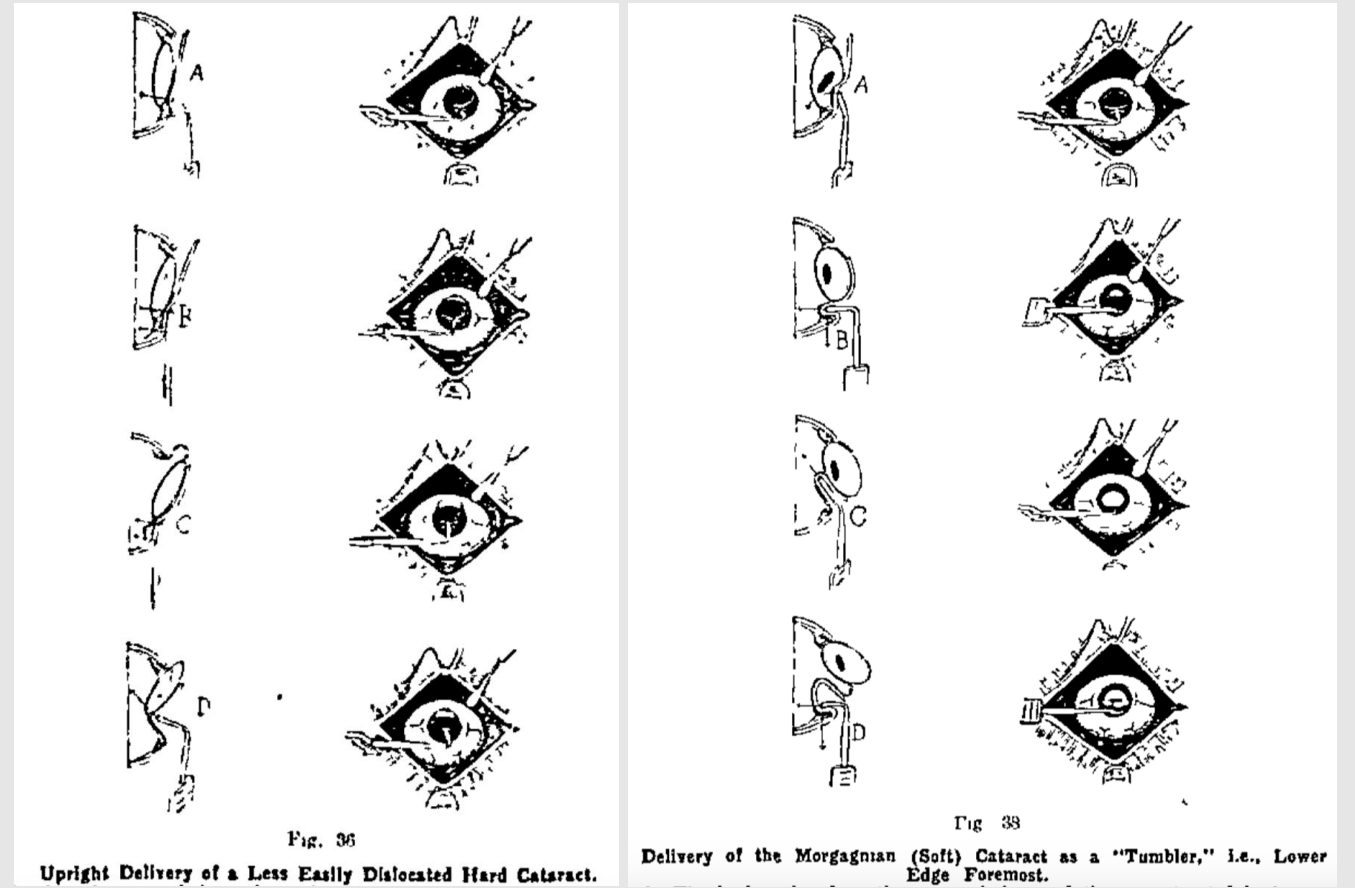
- Intracapsular extraction offered many advantages compared to extracapsular procedures
- The greatest risk was vitreous loss



*Patient's waiting in the corner of Smith's operating theatre.*

# *The Smith-Indian technique*

- Anaesthetised with topical cocaine
- Large corneal incision “across the centre of the pupil at the sclero-corneal junction.. with a crescentic sweep”
- Pressure from the convexity of a blunt hook at the junction of the lower and middle third of the lens
- Counter pressure above the incision with a spoon
- Expression of the lens through the wound, directly or as a ‘tumbler’
- “No meddlesome inspection or... changes of dressing” allowed for 8-10 days



*Illustrations from "The Treatment of Cataract," Smith, 1928.*

# *“The man with the cigar”*



**“If I have to lay down my cheroot, it is a bad operation, and if my cheroot goes out, it is a damned bad operation.”**

Smith to Colonel W F Harvey.

*Smith examining a patient while smoking a cigar.*

## EXTRACTION OF CATARACT IN THE CAPSULE.

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*Civil Surgeon, Jullundar, Punjab.*

TABLE I.

*Cataract Extractions in Jullundar Civil Hospital from June 1st, 1899, till May 1st, 1900.*

|   | Numbers. | Prolapse of Iris. | Iritis.       | Escape of Vitreous. | Capsule giving way during operation. |
|---|----------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Extraction of lens in capsule without iridectomy. | 692      | 7 or 1.01 p.c.    | 4 or 0.6 p.c. | } *96 or 14 p.c.    | 88 or 11.4 p.c.                      |
| Extraction of lens in capsule with iridectomy     | 78       | 2 or 2.5 p.c.     | 1 or 1.3 p.c. |                     |                                      |
| Total number of extraction of lenses in capsule   | 770      | 9 or 1.16 p.c.    | 5 or .65 p.c. | *93 or 14 p.c.      | 88 or 11.4 p.c.                      |
| Extraction with scratching of capsule             | 1,034    | 16 or 1.5         | 14 or 1.3     | 85 or 8.4 p.c.      |                                      |
| Total number of cataract extractions              | 1,804    |                   |               |                     |                                      |

**RESULTS—**

1st Class eyes 95.5 p.c.

2nd Class eyes 2.0 p.c.

Failures 2.5 p.c.

\* Twelve cases of voluntary evacuation of vitreous to prevent prolapse reduce percentage to 10.8 of involuntary escapes. These are included in the ninety-six cases.

# *Colonel Henry “Jullundur” Smith (1859-1948)*

- Retired from Indian Medical Service in 1921
- After a disappointing tour of America, returned to England
- Republished “The Treatment of Cataract ” in 1928
- Married Hester Dill Russell in 1898, and together they had two sons
- Died in his old home and birthplace, Clogher, Tyrone County, Ireland, in 1948

