expanded condition thereof in FIG. 7 to the contracted condition in FIG. 8.

From the foregoing description it will be apparent that an intraocular lens constructed in accordance with the invention has the advantage that the lens can be inserted into the eye through an incision which is smaller than the incisions currently required for conventional intraocular lenses. It should be noted that currently the incision must be at least 5 mm in length as determined by the minimum size optic in conventional use. Since incisions of only approximately 2.5 mm to 3 mm is length are required to remove the cataracted natural lens it is of course highly desirable to have an intraocular lens which will not require a larger incision.

While there have been described what are at present considered to be the preferred embodiments of this invention, it would be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the invention, and it is, therefore, aimed to cover all such changes and modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An intraocular lens comprising:

a lens body for focusing light rays on the retina of an eye, said lens body having an anterior and a posterior face and having a pair of imaginary coordinate axes at right angles to one another and to the optical axis and said lens body having a maximum dimension of substantially less than 5 mm along any line drawn through said lens body parallel to a given one of its pair of coordinate axes, said maximum dimension being defined by a pair of opposite peripheral edge portions of said lens body transverse to said one coordinate axis, and

masking means including a pair of wing portions operatively connected with said lens body for sliding movement along a face of said lens body between an expanded condition in which free inner edge portions of said wing portions are respectively located adjacent said peripheral edge portions of said lens body and said wing portions extend radially outwardly of said peripheral edge portions of said lens body for inhibiting light rays which are directed toward said peripheral edge portions from being scattered thereby toward the retina after the lens has been implanted in an eye, and a contracted condition in which said pair of wing portions are located substantially entirely within said maximum dimension of said pair of opposite peripheral edge portions of said lens body for permitting insertion of said lens through an incision in an eye which is substantially less than 5 mm in length.

2. An intraocular lens according to claim 1 in which said masking means comprises resiliently deformable connecting means connecting said wing portions to said lens body for sliding movement of said wing portions from said expanded to said contracted condition thereof by application of an external force and for returning said wing portions substantially to their expanded condition upon removal of said external force.

3. An intraocular lens according to claim 1, in which each said wing portion is integrally connected with said lens body at substantially a single point located on a portion of said lens body other than at said opposite peripheral edge portions.

4. An intraocular lens according to claim 1 in which said lens body has a generally elliptical periphery and said maximum dimension is the minor axis of the ellipse.

5. An intraocular lens according to claim 1 in which said lens body is generally rectangular and said maximum dimension is the shorter dimension of the rectangle.

6. An intraocular lens according to claim 1 in which said maximum dimension is about 3 mm.

7. An intraocular lens according to claim 5 in which said shorter dimension is about 3 mm and the longer dimension of said substantially rectangular lens body is about 6 mm.

8. An intraocular lens according to claim 1 further comprising position-fixation means connected with said lens body for seating said lens in the eye.

9. An intraocular lens according to claim 1 in which said lens body has a maximum dimension in a direction parallel to the other of its coordinate axes which is substantially greater than said first mentioned dimension.

10. An intraocular lens according to claim 1 in which said masking means comprises optically opaque means.

11. An intraocular lens comprising:

a lens body for focusing light rays on the retina of an eye, said lens body having a pair of imaginary coordinate axes at right angles to one another and to the optical axis and said lens body having a maximum dimension of substantially less than 5 mm along any line drawn through said lens body parallel to a given one of its pair of coordinate axes, said maximum dimension being defined by a pair of opposite peripheral edge portions of said lens body transverse to said one coordinate axis and located apart a distance equal to said maximum dimension, and

a pair of wing portions each having a free inner marginal edge portion and an outer marginal edge portion, said wing portions slideable with respect to said lens body between an expanded condition in which said free inner marginal edge portions thereof are located respectively adjacent said pair of peripheral edge portions of said lens body and said outer marginal edge portions thereof, are respectively spaced from and located radially outwardly of said peripheral edge portions of said lens body for inhibiting light rays which are directed toward said peripheral edge portions from being scattered thereby toward the retina after the lens has been implanted in an eye, and a contracted condition in which said free inner marginal edge portions are at second locations inwardly of said first mentioned locations thereof and said wing portions are located substantially entirely within said maximum dimension of said pair of opposite peripheral edge portions of said lens body for permitting insertion of said lens through an incision in an eye which is substantially less than 5 mm in length.

12. An intraocular lens according to claim 11 in which said pair of wing portions are at least in said contracted condition thereof, located entirely in a plane parallel and adjacent to the plane of said lens body, said wing portions adapted to substantially overlie in their entirety said lens body when said masking means is in said contracted condition and said lens comprising resilient means connecting said wing portions to said lens body for resiliently slideably returning said wing portions to their expanded condition upon release of exter-