

Alternatively, the optical lens 80 can be placed over the cornea in the position shown by dashed lens 84.

FIG. 12 is a pictorial representation of the optical lens 80 having a ring 86 embedded within the lens body. This enables a contact lens to obtain the optical effect for substitution of the loss of the accommodation of an eye by increasing the normal depth of focus of the eye by means of the effect of an intraocular stenopaic hole.

FIG. 13 illustrates that the optical lens functions as an iris diaphragm and can have a wide range of shapes and locations for the opaque ring. In FIG. 13, the lens body 90 has the endless annular-shaped member formed interiorly therein, and the stenopaic pinhole effect is created in the center by the non-transparent or opaque disc 92. Thus, the embodiment of FIG. 13 can be characterized as an artificial iris diaphragm. The external dimension of the lens body 90 of FIG. 13 is about 6.00 millimeters. The annular-shaped member 92 located within the lens body 90 has an outside diameter of about 3.50 millimeters, but this diameter can be anywhere between about 2.00 millimeters to about 5.00 millimeters. The annular-shaped member 92 has an inside dimension to define the stenopaic in the order of about 0.75 millimeters, but this can vary between about 0.05 millimeters to about 2.00 millimeters. It is preferable to have the external dimension of the lens body less than the diameter of the pupil of the eye. Also, a difference in the dimension of the diameter between the lens body and the diameter of the outside of the mid-width dilation pupil is required to enable the light rays to pass through the peripheral annular part of the lens body to obtain the far accommodation.

FIG. 14(a) illustrates, in cross section, that a plano-convex lens body 94 has the annular member 96 formed in the center thereof and that the stenopaic pinhole defining the light transmission path extends from the top surface, through the lens body, and out the bottom surface.

FIG. 14(b) illustrates a bi-convex lens wherein the top surface of the lens body 98 has an annular-shaped member of opaque material 100 formed on the surface thereof to provide the stenopaic pinhole effect.

FIG. 14(c) shows an alternate embodiment of a plano-convex lens body 94 having an annular-shaped member 92 formed on the bottom thereof to provide the stenopaic pinhole effect.

FIG. 14(d) shows a meniscus lens body 104 having an annular-shaped member 106 formed on the bottom surface thereof to form the stenopaic pinhole effect. Any of the lens bodies in FIGS. 14(a), 14(b), 14(c) and 14(d) can have the opaque annular member located on the top surface, in the lens interior, or on the bottom surface.

FIG. 15 illustrates an alternate embodiment for a lens body 110 of an optical lens of the present invention. In the event that the lens device cannot be exactly centered in the eye, the lens body 110 has positioned in the center thereof a fairly large disc-shaped member 112 formed of an opaque material, and the disc 112 has a plurality of, or multiple, apertures formed therein which are shown generally as 114, 116 and 118. The apertures 114, 116 and 118 are positioned in a predetermined pattern so that each of the apertures is axially aligned in a spaced relationship with each other and each of the apertures has a predetermined diameter. Rather than using a disc with holes, a grid formed of opaque material with preselected hole sizes could be used to achieve the same effect. With the embodiment of FIG. 15, the combination of apertures provides the

desired stenopaic pinhole effect and the optical lens of FIG. 13 allows a continuous form of accommodation and adaptation of the eye.

FIG. 16(a) illustrates an embodiment for providing the optical effect by use of a difference in refractive power of the lens material. In FIGS. 16(a) and 16(b), the basic lens body is a plano-convex lens 130. The center of the convex surface is formed of an arcuate-shaped central area 132. The difference in refractive characteristics of the plano-convex section 130 and the arcuate-shaped central member 132 functions to restore the loss of near and far accommodation of the eye. In the embodiment of FIGS. 16(a) and 16(b), the plano-convex section 130 has a refractive power of about +1.00 to about +3.00 diopters relative to the center of the lens body having the central area 132 formed thereon. The central area 132 would have an external dimension in the order of about 1.00 to about 3.00 millimeters in diameter. The optical lens described in FIGS. 16(a) and 16(b) is usable during constriction of the pupil, as occurs during near work and with adequate illumination.

As noted above, it is possible to combine the stenopaic pinhole effect illustrated in FIG. 13 with the differential refractive characteristic of the lens body illustrated in FIGS. 16(a) and 16(b).

FIG. 17 illustrates graphically the position of an optical lens 140 within an eye 142 wherein the optical lens 140 has an internal opaque ring 144 which provides the stenopaic pinhole effect. The iris 146 partially covers the lens body 140. The internal opaque ring 144 receives rays of light 148 and focuses the same at a focus point 150. The optical lens 140 controls the depth of the focus in order to restore the loss of near and far accommodation of the eye. In the case of near vision, the eyes converge and the pupils narrow. The pupillary constriction (miosis) is increased by the excess illumination which is available at a normal reading distance. Thus, in the case of near vision utilizing the optical lens 140 of FIG. 17, the peripheral part of the optical lens is covered by the iris 146. Only the central part of the optical lens having the annular ring 144 gives a sharp, focused sight for near vision.

FIG. 18 illustrates an embodiment of an optic lens 160 which is located within an eye 161. The optic lens 160 utilizes both the refractive characteristic of the periphery of the lens body and the annular-shaped member 162 to pass the rays of light 166 through the optical lens 160. The iris 168 is removed from the optical lens 160 as shown, resulting in more light passing through the entire lens body 160. In the illustration of FIG. 18, in the case of distant vision with ambient illumination, the pupil is in a mid-width dilation state and permits the light rays to enter the peripheral part of the optical lens as illustrated by light rays 166 of FIG. 18. This permits the light rays 166 to enter the peripheral part of the optical lens 160 as well as through the center of the annular-shaped member and permits adaptation to darkness.

The lens body for practicing the invention can be fabricated from any suitable lens material. The opaque or non-transparent member can be formed of such material as silver, plastic or a paint layer, if that material is completely enclosed in the optical lens. Preferably, the optical lens can be fabricated from a bio-compatible material, such as platinum, platinum iridium, gold, stainless steel, suitable paint or tinted material or appropriate approved plastic.

What is claimed is: