

Trachoma has been recognized as a clinical entity for over thirty five hundred years and is one of the first diseases of mankind to be described. Trachoma is a disease of the conjunctiva and cornea caused by microorganisms spread from person to person through contaminated towels, hands and other objects. It can progress from a mild form to blindness. Characteristic clinical symptoms include the formation of granules on the conjunctiva, especially of the upper eyelid, then follicular hypertrophy followed by pannus formation in the cornea (Fig. 1-4) The causative agent, the microorganism *Chlamydia trachomatis* was not identified until the late 1950s, but the disease plagued humans as early as we have written records and probably before. It was said that the Chinese of the 27th century BC and those living in Mesopotamia during the 20th century BC had to contend with the eye disorder. Trachoma persists today in areas with poor sanitation and poverty. Historically one of the leading causes of blindness in the world, it still affects millions of people, particularly in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.