

## OPHTHALMIC CHAIRS

The chairs illustrated in figure 8 were until recently in the West Suffolk Hospital at Bury St. Edmunds where they were often referred to as early dentists chairs. When the old building was demolished to make way for the present they were moved to Moyses Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds, and are now correctly described as ophthalmic chairs.

Research has established that they were designed by Dr. J. S. Hinnell (1862-1942), of Garland Street, Bury St Edmunds, ophthalmic surgeon to the West Suffolk Hospital and have been tentatively dated to c.1900.

The patient's head was wedged between the central sticks whilst his eyes were being examined. The principle of the shorter the patient the narrower his head seems to have been the one adopted, one wonders what happened when the opposite turned out to be the case! As yet no maker is known but further research may produce an answer. Does any reader have any pointers to this or know of any similar chairs elsewhere? The general pattern is so unusual that it would hardly pass unnoticed even to a casual observer.



Fig. 8 Ophthalmic chairs