

The Partially Sighted Society



Information Sheet

Do you see things that aren't there?

**As I was walking up the stairs
I met a man who wasn't there
He wasn't there again today
I wish, I wish he'd stay away**

(Hugh Mearns 1875-1965)

Driving At A Brick Wall!

"Whenever I get into my Son's car, I see a brick wall in front of the car, and we drive straight at it!"

This type of experience is sometimes been described by people with impaired vision.

Is Someone There?!

"Sometimes I see two people sitting on the sofa opposite me, I don't know who they are, and then they go away."

Am I going mad, is the question?

Certainly not, is the answer.

Many people with damaged vision appear to experience what can be described as false images/pictures.

The best explanation found for this phenomenon is that although the back of the eye may be damaged, the nerves that are used to transmit the picture to the brain remain, for the most part, sound.

Doubtless you have heard the story about the man with the amputated leg still being able to feel the foot which is now missing - well, it appears that sometimes, something happens to stimulate those eye nerves and they transmit an imaginary or artificial picture.

Those pictures can be vague shapes or patterns, sometimes they can be familiar and very real. They don't do any harm and usually diminish in time.

If you see a strange, unreal picture, which you can describe, write and tell us about it. It might help someone else who is worried about a similar experience, and make them feel better.

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