to adopt the operation of opening the texture of the lens through the cornea, he has next to make choice of the instrument which will accomplish this object most effectually, and with least injury to the organ. I conceive that all that is required for this purpose is a fine point; a cutting edge or knife being only required when the lens is to be cut in pieces. I also consider that the needle should be curved at the point, to enable the surgeon to open completely the texture of the lens, if it should prove soft or pliable; and it should be so constructed that the aqueous humour shall not escape. It is obvious that these objects cannot be attained by the use of the old spear-pointed couching needle, or by the smaller needles of Hay or Scarpa, unless they are very much diminished in their proportions. The flat needle of Mr. Saunders, however successfully used by him, is objectionable on account of its straight form, and the impossibility of rolling it between the fingers to produce the effect of a drill on the lens. That the modification of Scarpa's needle, recommended by Langenbeck and Guthrie, may be employed with the best effect, there can be no doubt; but I have to object to every needle fabricated by a cutler, that, however delicately the instrument may be formed, it is liable to leave a mark in the cornea, and made very small to guard against this occurrence, can seldom be obtained of the proper temper or finish: if too soft, they bend; or if too hard, break. To attain the desirable objects stated above, I determined to try a fine sewing needle, curved at the point; and after about forty operations, I do not feel in the least inclined to repent of my choice; I am, on the contrary, every day more and more satisfied that it affords peculiar and unquestionable advantages. It rarely or ever leaves even the slightest mark on the cornea. I could produce examples where it has been three times introduced, and where not the slightest speck can be detected; and I have introduced it into the very centre of the cornea without any bad consequences. When fairly introduced into the eye, it is capable of accomplishing any object to be attained by a needle. The capsule can be opened to any extent; a soft and friable lens can be actually broken up into a pulp, by pushing the curved extremity of the needle into its centre; large fragments can be taken up on the point of the needle from the anterior chamber, and forced back out of the way of the iris, or, if sufficiently soft, may be divided by pressing them against the back of the cornea with the convexity of the needle; a method which I have repeatedly adopted with advantage. When the lens has been displaced from the capsule, in consequence of the needle sticking in it in attempting to open the texture, I have, without removing the needle, placed the lens on the anterior chamber, and then extracted it; and in other cases have forced it back into the vitreous humour, out of the reach of the iris. From the fineness of its form, and the ease with which it can be turned and twisted in every direction, it enables the surgeon to