

Now, what is the most common cause of ulceration of the cornea? For a comparison I have taken 41 consecutive cases from hospital and private practice, where in each case an attempt has been made to find a definite etiological factor. Of these 41 cases

- 21 were due to the Morax-Axenfeld diplo-bacillus.
- 2 were due to the Gonococcus.
- 8 were due to the Pneumococcus.
- 2 were due to the Streptococcus Pyogenes.
- 3 were due to the Staphylococcus Pyogenes Aureus.
- 2 were due to the Staphylococcus Pyogenes Albus.
- 2 were not due to bacterial infection.

We have in this list 22 cases caused by the diplo-bacillus, that is, in more than half of the cases, if seen early, there is no reason why the ulcerative process should extend beyond the corneal epithelium, so that in over 50 per cent. of the cases, healing should take place without scar tissue and with normal vision.

In the Montreal district, the commonest form of conjunctivitis is the Morax-Axenfeld or diplo-bacillary, a form so varying in its clinical appearance and severity that a diagnosis must depend upon the bacteriological examination. How common it is may be better judged from the fact that in less than three years I have seen over 400 cases here. A number of the cases here reported, followed the removal of a foreign body. Generally the ulceration complicating diplo-bacillary conjunctivitis is of the catarrhal type. It was formerly thought a superficial ulceration at the periphery of the cornea was characteristic of this form of infection, but now it is known the diplo-bacillus can give rise to ulceration as severe in type as the *ulcus serpens* of pneumococcus infection.

Case 2 was a man of 50 years, a teamster, who gave no history of trauma or tear sac trouble. The cornea, over its central third showed deep ulceration, with a large hypopion, the iris was dull, there was severe chemosis, vision was equal to the perception of light, and the tension was normal. The treatment consisted of warm fomentations, and the instillation of sulphate of zinc $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. solution. Scopolamine was used as a mydriatic. He left the hospital with a useful eye, the vision equal to two thirds of normal, a much better result than would have been obtained had the infection been taken for a pneumococcus one and the ulcer cauterised; for it is to be remembered that while the cautery destroys the pathogenic micro-organisms, it also destroys cell tissue, so