

*Operations Performed.*—Cataract, 46; Artificial Pupil, 8; Staphyloma, 8; Excision of Eyeball, 2; Extirpating Tumor from Eye, 2; Removal of Cancer, 1; Fistula Lachrymalis, 6; Trichiasis, 6; Symblepharou, 2; Foreign body removed from Iris, 1; Paracentesis oculi, 6; Cutting down to mastoid process, 4; Cutting into mastoid cells, 1; Total, 88.

HENRY HOWARD, M.D., M.R.C.S.L.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*Observations on the Case of Retention of the Menses reported in the last number.*

*To the Editors of the MEDICAL CHRONICLE.*

GENTLEMEN,—I believe few, if any, well qualified physicians, can have read the history of a case of retention of the menses in your last number without feeling with myself there was mismanagement evinced in the treatment of the case, and I cannot, as one of your readers, allow such a one to be published without at once taking exception to both the treatment and remarks on it.

I would merely state that in my opinion no physician can be justified under any circumstances in allowing a case of this nature to proceed to the eight month, or nearly so far, without fully satisfying himself and the patient's friends as to the cause of the suppression, for the following more weighty reasons (though numerous lesser ones might be mentioned):—In the first place, of course the practitioner must be acting perfectly in the dark, and consequently quite empirically. Next, the patient's life may be endangered from his neglect, as appears to have been the case in the present instance. And last, though by no means least, in my estimation is the fact, that a virtuous woman may be subject to the taunts and remarks of all who see her, and, as in the present case, even incur a father's malediction from no other fault or misfortune than the selection of a physician. And even after the case may have resulted as the present appears to have done, perfectly satisfactorily to the medical attendant and parents of the young lady, I know enough of human nature to be well aware very unpleasant rumours may still be circulated by malicious persons well calculated to embitter the future of the unfortunate patient.

Next, with respect to the remarks submitted on the case, I acknowledge I never heretofore read any of those quoted, and therefore am not prepared to dispute any but the paragraph on Lady Flora Hastings' case, which is simply untrue from beginning to end. This I can vouch for from the fact of my being at the time a pupil under, and intimate friend of one of Her Majesty's medical attendants at Windsor, from whom, as well as from other reliable sources, I learnt the whole history, it was