Ophthalmology

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Excision of Lachrymal Sac Before Operations on the Eyeball. In *La Clinica Oculistica,* August, 1909.

Calderaro gives the results of his experience with this operation from a bacteriological point of view. His conclusions are briefly as follows: The number of organisms of all kinds is diminished, and within the first few days the virulence of those remaining is lessened; if the eyes be tied up for a few days, the bacteria increase both in number and virulence. After some months the conjunctiva usually shows in examination no pathogenic germs, but the usual saprophytes, but if the eyes be tied up again, the pathogenic germs reappear, but in diminished virulence, in about a third of cases.

He has not found probing of the stricture to be of as much service in lessening the number of bacteria, as removal of the sac. Removing of the lachrymal gland, with the resulting diminution of tears, tends to increase the growth of pathogenic organisms.

W. H. L.

The Influence of Adrenalin in Intraocular Tension. *Ophthalmoscope,* December, 1909.

This is a review of Rubert's investigations in connection with the use of adrenalin in glaucomatous eyes. He says that to use adrenalin indiscriminately upon the eyes of elderly people is a mistake, and to instil it into an eye affected with glaucoma is very wrong unless the patient is under immediate and constant observation. He quotes a number of instances where adrenalin seemed to cause exacerbation of the glaucoma symptoms. He speaks of one case of absolute hæmorrhagic glaucoma, in which the instillation of two drops of solution caused such an acute attack that the eye had to be enucleated. On the other hand, other instances are given where the use of the adrenalin was of decided benefit in glaucoma patients. It seems that there are two varieties of action. Either the adrenalin acts beneficially, causing a decided fall of pressure within the eye, or it has the opposite action, causing a rapid rise of intraocular pressure, with the resulting serious