

## THE EYE IN GENERAL DISEASES.\*

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MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—I fear it is not an original observation, but it is none the less true, that one of the most marked characteristics of the progress of medical science and practice during the century just ended has been the development of what we are accustomed to call the "Specialties." And in that development none of the branches of special medicine, it seems to me, have shared more fully or completely than Ophthalmology. It has been well said that the specialist must—to be a good specialist—have a knowledge of general medicine and surgery; otherwise he is almost certain to become narrow in his point of view, and to imagine that in his particular study lies the *fons et origo* of practically all the ills that afflict us. This mental astigmatism—if you will permit me to so term it—is not unknown, I regret to say, in the ranks of the Ophthalmologists, and there are those who would have you believe that a dislocation of the head of the femur is due to an unoperated upon exophoria, or that a pair of sphero-cylindrical lenses will banish for all time almost any of the discomforts to which we have become accustomed by long experience. Nevertheless, Ophthalmology is intimately interwoven with general medicine, and it is my desire this evening to bring to your notice some of the more commonly recognized ocular symptoms occurring in those diseases which as practitioners of medicine you are constantly called upon to treat. This I will be compelled to do with considerable brevity, as the subject is a large one; and it would consume altogether too much of your time to dilate, even in a small way, upon what might otherwise be matter of very great interest to both of us.

Let us begin, then, by considering the more important of the ocular symptoms occurring in *diseases of the Nervous System*, probably the most instructive of all. These may be divided into (1) affections of the eyes occurring in *diseases of the Brain*, of which tumors, abscesses, hemorrhages and meningeal inflammations are the most important. Intense optic neuritis—the