of all new-born children in the clinic were cleaned immediately after birth with ordinary water and then disinfected by means of the silver nitrate solution. After the assistant had gently separated the eyelids, a single drop of the solution was placed in the eye by means of a glass rod. For 24 hours after the application the eyes were cooled by means of a linen fold soaked in a 2 per cent. solution of salicylic acid, laid over them. Babies undergoing such treatment were saved from ophthalmia, notwithstanding the fact that many of the mothers were evidently suffering from blenorrhœa. Not infrequently the eyes became somewhat congested, accompanied occasionally by a slight discharge after the use of the silver drops, but this subsided with appropriate treatment and was never serious.

That Credé's plan was successful is evident, as the percentage of cases of ophthalmia in the Leipsig clinic declined from an average of 10¾ per cent. in the seven years to ½ of 1 per cent. in 1880. A still more convincing testimony to the success of Credé's procedure is the overwhelming fact that during the three years following this discovery there was only one case of ophthalmia among 1,160 children born alive. Throughout all parts of the civilized world medical men have made similar reports of equally effective results. Striking testimonies to the success of Credé's plan are given conspicuous place in medical literature. It has been shown by Köstlin that, previous to the adoption of the nitrate of silver treatment the number of cases of ophthalmia in the practice of 32 observers ranged from 2.25 per cent. to 59 per cent., and averaged 9.24 per cent. After the adoption of the Credé treatment among 24,724 babies ophthalmia varied from zero to 1.93 per cent., an average of 0.655 per cent.

There has been much objection to the use of nitrate of silver on account of the exceptional cases of hyperemia of the conjunctiva following its use, but this has never been severe if the procedure as recommended by Credé has been carried out according to his directions. The solution should be neutral, or only slightly acid, in reaction, and not more than one drop of this solution should be instilled into the conjunctival sac, and should not be repeated. This is preferably done by means of a glass rod. If the infection has already taken place, a single instillation of the nitrate of silver would not abate the disease. Experiments have been made with various antiseptics, especially with the newer silver salts, which are undoubtedly less irritating to the conjunctiva, but it has been found that, although in some cases the use of solutions of argyrol and protargol have shown a certain amount of efficiency as a preventive of ophthalmia neonatorum, they have not as yet been given sufficient trial to be preferred to nitrate of silver. From the statistics collected by Sydney Stephenson it goes to prove that weaker solutions than 2 per