

small areas representing the action of oxidizing iron on the corneal tissue, or are partly burnt corneal tissue. These small areas act as foreign bodies, and the corneal wound shows little tendency to heal as long as they remain. Often, when the corneal wound is deep, they require considerable skill to detach them. At times they may be scraped away; while in other cases, after detaching them, they have to be cut off with a small pair of scissors. They should be carefully sought for after the extraction of every piece of steel.

THE SENSITIVENESS OF THE PERITONEUM.—T. R. Jessopp, F. R. C. S., Eng., sends a short but interesting communication to *The Lancet* on this subject, in which he says: "Having occasion, a few days ago to perform inguinal colotomy, I asked Mr. Moynihan, our resident surgical officer, to test the sensitiveness of the exposed peritoneum so soon as the patient should have completely recovered from the anæsthetic. Mr. Moynihan informs me that he pricked, scratched, and handled the exposed bowel (which appeared to be in no way altered from its normal condition), with the result that the patient declared her sensation was as if she were being "lightly touched with a feather." A similar result was obtained from like tests applied to the turned-up edge of the parietal peritoneum. At the same time the patient felt acutely the prick of a pin applied to the skin in the neighborhood of the wound and elsewhere."

The above is instructive when we bear in mind the extreme pain caused by acute inflammatory affections of this membrane.

UPRIGHT AND SLOPING WRITING.—The educational journals are beginning to discuss the question of vertical as against the old fashioned sloping writing. It will be fortunate if the result should be the introduction of the reform in our schools, fortunate not only for pupils, but for those who pursue clerical avocations after leaving school. The hygienic bearing of the question is most important. The *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* recently remarked: "Mayer, as a result of the study of forty schools in Bavaria with over two thousand pupils, finds that with upright writing fifty-five per cent. of the children sat in a good position, whereas with sloping writing only five per cent. were found to do so. He finds that the

better the position of the pupil the less the letters incline, and that if vertical writing is taught, children sit in a good position with far less trouble."

SCIENCE AND WOMEN.—Professor William James, of Harvard (*Med. and Surg. Reporter*), announces that women develop early and then cease to grow mentally. Professor Crichton Browne, finds that women's brains are smaller than men's, and their frontal lobes less richly supplied with blood. Professor Louprouse finds that women are less sensitive than men, and as regards their receptive and perceptive organs represent an incompletely developed type. Altogether, science is bearing down very hard on the ladies. Yet we do not learn that they are becoming any the less popular. The poet has said metrically that without them the extremes of life would be without solace and its middle without joy. The testimony of the poet will probably continue to be received by the mass of human kind, even if the greatest cranial circumference of the gentler sex never rises above fifty centimeters.

TREATMENT OF LEAD COLIC BY LARGE DOSES OF OLIVE OIL.—Dr. Weil, Lyons, France (*La Semaine Medicale—Med. and Surg. Rep.*) has treated five cases of lead colic successfully with large doses of olive oil. He administers a glass of the oil per diem, and in all the cases a cure was effected in three to five days, concluding with the appearance of copious stools, produced by the oil. But, before the stools, considerable diminution of the pains takes place, thus proving that, besides its action as a purgative, it exercises a certain analgesic effect upon the intestine. In one of the patients two glasses were rejected by the stomach, while the third produced an amelioration and a cure. Another patient, in whom belladonna and purgatives brought about no results, was relieved by the first glass of oil and cured by the fifth. In all the cases of plumbism the oil not only caused a disappearance of the colic, but also of the other symptoms—myalgias, arthralgias, cutaneous anæsthesia, headache and vertigo.

PERSONAL.—The profession at large will be glad to learn that the Pathological Society of Toronto expect the honor of entertaining in this city, some time in May, Prof. Hans Virchow, the son of