

see the indictment against the flap operation is a heavy one. Not less serious are the charges against its immediate successor the "Scoop operation," for here we have the introduction of three instruments within the eye, besides the one necessary for making the incision. The iridectomy, however harmless in itself, had a different significance when associated with the stretching and bruising of the iris, which occurred during the extraction of the lens. Portions of cortical substance generally became detached from the main body of the lens by the pressure of the scoop and were difficult to remove. So that in this operation fragments of lens frequently remained in the eye, and added to the misfortunes of the already sorely tried iris, nor was the latter slow in responding. Accordingly we find that a large proportion of these cases suffered from iritis, often of a severe type, and of the cases which apparently made a good recovery, very many required subsequent attention on account of thickened capsule in the pupil. Rupture of hyaloid membrane, caused by the introduction of the scoop, and consequent loss of vitreous was not an uncommon occurrence. In so far as this operation permitted the use of chloroform, or even rendered the administration of an anæsthetic almost indispensable, it may be regarded as a triumph over the one previously considered, but the drawbacks just enumerated soon cast a shade over the joyous hopes of its converts, one after another of whom were forced to acknowledge themselves disappointed in their expectations, for the test of experience, the only true guide in such matters, revealed the stubborn fact that disaster still too often attended their best directed efforts.

A few years sufficed to decide the fate of the scoop operation, and now it is to be placed in the category of those things which we often hear of but seldom see.

The method of Von Gräfe now succeeded the scoop operation and was soon almost universally adopted; but many operators found themselves in a new dilemma occasioned by the extremely peripheral position of the incision, as