

PRAIRIE CONJUNCTIVITIS

BY JAMES McLEOD, M.D., C.M. (McGill)

REGINA, SASK.

Mr. President and Gentlemen:—

The wise man in the Good Book tells us that there is no new thing under the sun, and if I were to blurt out the statement that I purpose describing a new disease of the eye the effect might be somewhat startling. Now, I do not wish to be sensational. What I purpose doing is, to describe a disease or condition of the eye, several cases of which I have seen in this province, but never anywhere else.

During a prolonged experience at Moorfield's Eye Hospital, London, England, where I had an opportunity of seeing the rare cases of an out-door department of six hundred eye patients a day, I never saw a case such as I am about to describe. There is nothing in the text books like it. Even in such an exhaustive work on ophthalmology as that of Fuchs of Vienna there is no disease mentioned that even approximately resembles the one under consideration.

For convenience of reference in this paper I have named the condition "Prairie Conjunctivitis." It is a form of conjunctivitis and of a very chronic character. It is characterised by the presence of small white spots or dots situated on the palpebral conjunctiva and most commonly on the lower lid. The places of predilection are the reddish patches on the tarsal conjunctiva near the inner and outer canthi. The most typical dots are pin-point in size and of paper whiteness. They appear to project from the surface and look like specks of chalk stuck on a red cushion. There are other spots that are a little larger, not so intensely white, and more deeply situated in the tissues. The conjunctiva around them is invariably inflamed.