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CONSERVATIVE SURGERY OF THE EYE.*

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There is probably no disease of the eye so dreaded by the ophthalmologist as the one called *sympathetic ophthalmia*. Unlike other inflammatory affections of the eye, which for the most part are revealed by honest outspoken symptoms, of themselves almost suggestive of suitable remedies, and characterized by a willingness to gracefully yield to the recuperative powers of nature, aided, perhaps, by rational therapeutics, we see in sympathetic ophthalmitis a sort of "snake in the grass" among ocular diseases, an insidious process which may have advanced far in its destructive course before its presence is even suspected, unless, perchance, the subject happens to be under the daily observation of some one keenly alive to the danger ; and even then it is doubtful whether a genuine plastic iridocyclitis of sympathetic origin can be arrested or dealt with successfully, when it has once gained ever so small a foothold in the sympathizing eye.

Taking into consideration the subtle character of this disease, its virulence when once established, and when we bear in mind that up to the present time no reliable method of treatment is recognized, also that this disease usually means hopeless blindness of both eyes, for the exciting eye has generally been lost

* Read before the Canadian Medical Association, at Montreal, September, 1891.