

CASES ILLUSTRATING THE USE OF THE ELECTRO MAGNET IN OPHTHALMIC PRACTICE

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Last summer I had the pleasure of spending three days at Zurich and of following the interesting clinic of Professor Haab. The Professor is one of those quiet, thoughtful, painstaking persons who are to be found so frequently in the profession, and one who is ever ready to welcome a foreign colleague. Haab has done much good work in various departments of ophthalmology, but the work which has made his name a household word among ophthalmologists the world over is the introduction of the magnet in the removal of foreign bodies from the eye. He devised a giant magnet, which is applicable to many cases but not to all. Smaller hand electro magnets have been devised by Hirschberg, Lippincott, Johnson and Sweet; all or any of them will be found most useful and very much less expensive than the giant magnet of Haab and more easy of application.

It may be of interest to quote the statistics of Haab, published in 1908, in order to show what has been accomplished by the use of the magnet in saving eyes.

Haab's Statistics—

Total number of eyes.....	165
Number of failures	23
Number of eyes from which splinters were extracted.....	141
Number of eyes requiring enucleation.....	39
Number of sightless eyes preserved.....	19
Number eyes requiring cataract operation (51 recovered useful vision)	71

Writing of his experience with the giant magnet, Haab says: "Of the whole number of 165 cases in my experience, the operation failed 23 times. It was successful in 141 cases, or in 86 per cent. If we consider the 134 difficult cases in which the splinter penetrated behind the iris and the lens, we find that in these 134 cases the large magnet failed only 23 times to extract the splinter from the eye and was successful in 111 cases, or 83 per cent."