

somewhat hypertrophied. In many of the slight cases, I doubt not that this hypertrophied condition recedes spontaneously; but in other cases, and I think the larger number, the disease, if inefficiently treated, extends to the sub-conjunctival tissue, and the papillæ become very much elongated, giving rise to the condition erroneously called "granular lids." This swollen and roughened condition of the palpebral conjunctiva is a constant source of irritation, and in many cases is the direct cause of vascular and ulcerative diseases of the cornea.

Catarrhal inflammation of the conjunctiva is an innocent disease that seldom, in the acute stage, results in any serious trouble to either cornea or ocular conjunctiva; but the so-called "granular lids," in its effect on the cornea, undoubtedly leads to more cases of impaired vision and blindness than any other disease of the eye. The subjective symptoms in this affection are so misleading, that the patient is clamorous for treatment when comparatively little local treatment is required, and on the contrary, can with difficulty be induced to continue treatment afterwards, when it is absolutely necessary to prevent hypertrophies of the palpebral conjunctiva and the diseases that result therefrom.

In the treatment of catarrhal conjunctivitis, I do little more the first week than order the eye to be bathed frequently with warm water, and direct simple cerate of fresh lard to be applied to the edge of the eyelids at bed-time. A solution of atropia-sulph. (grs. ij—ʒi) applied occasionally to the conjunctiva will show, by its effect on the shape of the pupil, whether the iris is involved or not. This is a point of great practical importance, and especially so to young practitioners, who have little experience in diagnosing inflammation of the iris. In the second week, the use of local applications should be begun, and I do not know which of two remedies to recommend most highly, namely, weak solutions of nitrate of silver, or the red oxide of mercury plasma. I have used the two remedies side by side, that is, one in the right eye, the other in the left, and have had about equally satisfactory results. The plasma of the red oxide of mercury is used of the uniform strength of eight grains to the ounce of