

having a cholesteatoma is not in itself a grave condition; but associated with outside influences may cause considerable trouble. For instance, I remember well a case I had of a man about 25 years old and he had such a condition for years, but going in swimming one day he developed a dizziness to such an extent that he could not stand, from infection of cholesteatoma which extended to the labyrinth. In one case of Dr. Politzer's almost the whole petrous bone became involved and yet the patient died from intercurrent disease after many years. With regard to the eye case, as Dr. Byers remarks, it is very interesting to note that since we have been able to take out these particles of steel by the magnet we are practically able to save all the eyeballs. We are not so fortunate with the sight, but it is a great thing to save the eye. A workman with two eyes that look normal even though the sight of one of them is not perfect can secure employment much more readily than one who is mutilated by the loss of one eyeball.

TREATMENT OF ECLAMPSIA.

H. M. LITTLE, M.D., read the paper of the evening.

A. LAPHORN SMITH, M.D. We are very much indebted to Dr. Little for this most interesting paper. The subject of eclampsia is always of interest and as discussed by Dr. Little is more so than usual. Dr. Little mentions a very interesting point that eclampsia is more frequent in winter than summer, and I can quite understand why this should be so for in this severe climate the want of oxygen is one of the things people suffer from most, and the less oxygen the more uric acid. Nitrogenous food stopping at uric acid instead of going on to urea has a great deal to do with the disease itself. I think it will be found that the atrophy of the liver is the result of this poison and not the cause of it. This poison seems to be one that has a powerful reflex action on the capillary circulation, especially of the kidneys and the brain, because the condition of the brain is exceedingly anæmic before the convulsion comes on. After the woman has been deprived of air by the convulsions the brain becomes exceedingly congested; but the spasmodic condition of the capillaries causes the convulsions. Dr. Little has said that very little result was obtained by preliminary treatment. I have had very great satisfaction personally from preliminary treatment, and a friend of mine in a large French maternity hospital told me that he had had several hundred cases in which treatment prevented convulsions, though they came in with a great quantity of albumin in the urine. I think that there is a great field for this preliminary treatment. We all know of course that it is the duty of every physician to make an examination of the urine of his pregnant patients at least twice a month during the last four