

coat with much vigour. Depletion and cupping on the temple were ordered and mercury used night and morning: calomel and opium, not for any specific action, so much as to stop inflammation. To these remedies we added a blister on the nape of the neck; yet all did not answer, and we were obliged to have recourse to the wine of colchicum — (3 ss., sex tis horis). This affected his stomach a little, as colchicum very often does, so that it is a drug requiring much caution in its administration. In my experience, however, I find that where the pain and sickness are induced, the action of the medicine is more certain and specific; still, great caution is also necessary, for very serious results have followed overdoses of this powerful agent.

If the colchicum* be used without due caution, even fatal results might arise, so that it will be necessary to watch its action with great care. I am not going now to enter into the minute diagnosis of sclerotitis, we shall see it as we go through the wards during the summer, and it will be better to point it out to you in the wards.

The next case I wish to speak more in detail about, is a patient suffering under what is termed.

CONICAL CORNEA.

The patient is E. W.——, a poor woman, it seems, who has been jaded about the streets quite blind. She is a comparatively young woman, only aged thirty six years; she has occasional flashes of light, she says, but with that sole exception she has been now thirteen years totally without vision of any kind.

This is a most singular disease, one of the pathology or nature of which we know absolutely nothing. As far as I have seen it during fifty years' experience (if possible to add to its anomalous character) it usually takes place in young and healthy subjects who have not suffered in any manner from excessive use of the eye, like watchmakers, needlewomen, printers, &c. This young woman, our present patient, you see, is perfectly healthy; she tells us nothing of any previous disease of her eyes; in fact, it is a gradual change occurring over a long space of time in a cornea otherwise healthy. I have seen the cornea in this state become in shape quite like a cone; the rays of light, too, present a most unusual appearance in conical cornea; the patient does not present the vacant, dull eye of the amaurotic patient, who holds his head

* It may be prudent to observe that very few surgeons share Mr. Lawrence's dread of the use of colchicum, at least in Hospitals. Mr. Hancock, uses tinct. of aconite in such cases, which is nearly the same medicine, and probably aconite and atropine will, ere long, supersede all the routine plans of calomel and opium, belladonna, &c. &c.