

least every hour. The destruction of the micro-organism is best accomplished by means of nitrate of silver solution, to be applied to the everted lids in a 2 per cent. solution at least once daily, and the excess washed off with either saline solution or plain water.

Nitrate of silver is more valuable than any of the new preparations of the silver salts, such as protargol, argyrol, etc. It is well, however, to use these to supplement the nitrate of silver. If the cornea becomes infected atropin should be instilled in $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per cent. solution, and any ulcers present may be cauterized. All cloths, etc., used for bathing the lid should be burned immediately after use. All persons brought in contact with the infant should be warned of the danger from possible infection.

Prevention.—It is generally recognized throughout the world that infection of the eyes of new-born children by a purulent inflammation caused by one of several muco-organisms is one of the chief causes of blindness. Previous to 1881 the children born had their eyes so frequently infected with a purulent inflammation, which was disastrous to sight in such a large percentage of cases that investigators had been endeavoring from time immemorial to find some remedy that would prevent infection. Literature abounds with remedies innumerable. In the early part of the last century efforts were made to find some method of preventing the disease by first removing the disease in the mother during pregnancy, and, if this was not successful, to get rid of as much discharge as possible from the vagina during the birth of the child, and to thoroughly cleanse the eyes of the child immediately after delivery with a solution capable of destroying the action of the discharge. This was more or less the line of procedure followed by the majority of men, a variety of prophylactic measures being recommended, among them being chlorine water, salicylic acid, thymol, potassium permanganate, benzoic acid, tannin, iodoform, carbolic, and various other remedies too numerous to mention, each having its advocate as a means of preventing infection. All observers were united on one point—that whatever procedures were adopted they should be used the instant the head was born, and before the baby had time to open his eyes. Nothing seemed to avail until, in the year 1881, Prof. Carl Credé, of Leipsic, after many a careful and scientific investigation, gave to the world a prophylactic, the use of which has been the means of diminishing the number of infections in the eyes of newborn babes, and saving thousands of them from passing their days in darkness. His treatment consisted of a single drop of a 2 per cent. solution of silver nitrate, simply dropped into the baby's eyes as soon as convenient after birth.

The details of the method which Credé used are important and also interesting. After various experiments with different antiseptics the eyes