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ULCERATION OF THE CORNEA.

SOME POINTS ON ETIOLOGY AND TREATMENT.

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It will be readily understood that in a paper limited to fifteen minutes it is not proposed to deal fully either with the etiology or treatment of ulcerative processes of the cornea, but rather to touch upon one or two points which seem to mark an advance in our knowledge of this subject. That disease of the cornea makes an important chapter in ophthalmology you will all agree, that ulceration of the cornea forms the most important part of that chapter will not be denied. One quarter to one third of all ophthalmic disturbances consist of corneal disease. Uthoff, in ten thousand blind people, found thirteen per cent. due to corneal disease. Of the suppurative forms of keratitis ulceration of the cornea is the most common. The frequency of this affection, the serious damage to sight which it often causes demands from us most intelligent treatment.

Under etiology there are many points apart from the direct cause which need to be considered. The cornea is not supplied with blood vessels, so that the central part, so often the starting point, is less able to combat disease than is the periphery. Then, too, the cornea is the most exposed part of the eye to external injury. At its margin the cornea meets conjunctiva, sclera, and uveal tract. It is therefore divided into three parts: a conjunctival, a scleral and a uveal. From Fuchs quoting Waldeyer we learn the conjunctival portion consists of the anterior epithelium, Bowman's membrane and some of the anterior lamellæ of the corneal stroma. The scleral portion consists of the

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