

a certain form of ulceration of the cornea as "Ulcus serpens," and recommended the operation of Keratotomy as the best means of arresting it, if a fair trial of simpler means fail to do so.

The chief characteristics of the "Ulcus serpens" are, according to Sæmisch, as follows: Somewhere near the centre of the cornea, a round or oval loss of substance occurs, giving rise to a greyish opacity at this part. At some portion of the circumference of this defect the margin is more or less swollen and of a yellowish colour. This appearance will sometimes correspond to half the circumference of the ulcer which is moreover always deepest at this part. Beyond the ulcer, but in the immediate neighbourhood of its swollen edge, the cornea is for a short distance somewhat turbid, and traversed by opaque striæ running obliquely through its substance, beyond these again it is entirely normal in appearance. The ulcer tends to spread more or less rapidly in the direction of the opaque striæ, both in depth and circumference. From the posterior surface of the cornea a gelatinous-looking, turbid mass may be seen extending back towards the pupil and iris; often the anterior chamber will be found to contain a purulent deposit or hypopyon, just as in other forms of purulent keratitis. Iritis almost always occurs before the disease of the cornea has made much progress. The subjective symptoms, such as pain and intolerance of light, vary considerably in different individuals without any obvious reasons for such variation. The disease almost always attacks elderly people, especially those who are in a feeble state of health, and it may generally be traced to some slight injury which the cornea has sustained. One of the predisposing causes of this form of ulceration seems to be the existence of chronic catarrhal inflammation of the conjunctiva, such as obtains in old cases of dacryocystitic blenorrhœa.

The treatment recommended by Sæmisch for this form of keratitis depends upon the extent of the disease and the rapidity of its progress; and I may say here that my own experience has convinced me that his views are entirely correct.

At first when the ulcer is small, say not more than two or three millimeters in its longest diameter, even when there is