# Selections.

## Ammonia Burns of the Eye.

Edward Stieren, ophthalmologist and otologist to the Passavant Hospital, Pittsburg, directs attention to the dearth of information concerning the action of ammonia on the tissues of the eye. There are points of similarity in the action of carbolic acid and of ammonia on the tissues of the eye for the first few days following their introduction; but the author says that ultimately the prognosis regarding the vision of an eye so endangered is quite gloomy when ammonia has done the damage, but much better when the agent has been carbolic acid.

The author recites four cases of injury to the eye by ammonia, in only one of which was treatment effective, and the marked improvement that took place in this case was due no doubt, the author says, to the use of dionin, a new and valuable agent in ocular therapeutics, which has marked properties as a lymphagogue on the tissues of the eye.

Dr. Stieren, on being requested by members of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania to relate his experience with dionin, spoke as follows: "My attention was first attracted to this agent in the summer of 1893, while visiting Fuch's clinic in Vienna, where they used it in cases of corneal opacities, uveitis, infected globes, and painful iridocyclitis. When first instilled, it causes a severe smarting, lasting about a minute, followed by a general edema of the ocular conjunctiva. Usually the pain of an iritis or episcleritis is abolished in a few minutes after its use. I prescribe it in 10 per cent. and 20 per cent. solutions, dusting the pure drug into the eye in the office.

"In regard to lime burns, I cannot recall any at present where the cornea was rendered completely opaque. Usually there is more or less formation of symblepharon with marginal opacity of the cornea. Logically, dionin would be a very useful remedy in lime burns of the eye, as it is an analgesic and has marked properties in promoting the flow of lymph in the anterior portion of the eye."—*Penn. Med. Jour.*, May, 1905.

## The Physiologic Action of Dionin.

W. H. Snyder, of Toledo, Ohio, after explaining the pharmacology and the physiologic action of dionin at the recent meeting of the American Medical Association, described a number of experiments bearing upon its action on tissue and