

free purgative and alterative medicines, and the application of the wine of opium to the eye. In one instance, however, the child had been neglected, and it was necessary to touch the ulcerated surface of the cornea, with a point of nitrate of silver. This stimulated the ulcer to a healthy action, and healing, saved the prolapsus of the iris and other evil consequences.

In many of these cases an herpetic eruption might be seen on the face and head, coexistent with the disease of the eye, indicating the identity of its constitutional origin.

Scrofulous Ophthalmia.

The nature of the diseases classed under this head were intimately allied to the preceding variety: the same cast of countenance, the same character of constitution predominated; indeed, when we take the constitutional characteristic as a type of the disease, an infinite variety of ophthalmic complaints must be included under this head, a circumstance that is apt to lead to great confusion, making it difficult to define our ideas as to the nature of the local complaint, as it influences a vast variety of them.

The generality of patients with this complaint were young children, ranging from two to twelve years of age. The most marked symptom of their disease was a great intolerance of light; so great, indeed, was the pain and inconvenience produced by the slightest application of the influence of light to the eye, that the child instinctively covered them, and often buried its head under its clothes: here you might see the brows knit and the eyelids spasmodically closed, by the violent contraction of the orbicular muscle. Was an attempt made to separate the lids, it was most strenuously resisted; and even when that was accomplished, the eyeball was seen involuntarily turned upwards, while the child screamed from pain and fear, and hot acid tears streamed down the cheeks. Often after the most patient trials to see the condition of the cornea, we had to give up the investigation without complete success.

In many cases in which we succeeded in our explorations, great was our surprise to find that the eye had scarcely any other visible symptom of disease,—perhaps a slight redness of the conjunctiva covering the lids or reflected over the globe might be seen. This redness was frequently but a few fasciculi of vessels, tending to form a minute pustule. Often even had this greatly subsided, leaving but a slight mark to indicate its presence, after the child had suffered from the intolerance of light for six or eight months. In other cases again, the organic disease of the eye was more grave, the cornea, iris, and other structures of the eye, were evidently affected; and did the disease of these parts progress, the complete destruction of the organ might be the