

CORRESPONDENCE.

TRANSATLANTIC CORRESPONDENCE.

(To the Editors of the Medical Chronicle.)

London, the metropolis of England, presents to the medical student one of the most extensive fields for the study of his profession, which the world possesses; he may either confine his attention to disease generally, or to any particular branch to which his fancy leads. During my visit to that city, I attended regularly the various institutions for the treatment of diseases of the eye, and will endeavour, in the following lines, to present to your readers the different methods of treatment for some diseases of the eye, which are there adopted, hoping that it may prove interesting to some persons.

Granular Lids.—This is, undoubtedly, one of the most troublesome diseases with which the hospital physician has to contend, and seldom will you find two persons treat it in a similar manner, as will hereafter be shown.

Mr. Haynes Walton, Surgeon to the Central Ophthalmic Hospital, (and author of the Ophthalmic Operative Surgery,) believes that it depends upon the condition of the blood, and to relieve this is his sole object, which he effects by tonic remedies, generally selecting iron; he deprecates in the strongest terms the use of local irritating applications, thinking that they tend to aggravate rather than cure the disease; but if the eye is very irritable, he relieves it by means of an opiate solution. Mr. Hancock, of the Westminster Ophthalmic, recommends the local application of acid. acet. fort., which he thinks acts as a solvent for the fibrine, of which the granulations consist. Mr. Critchett, of the Moorfields Hospital, trusts to the local application of the sulphate of copper, endeavouring at the same time to improve the patient's constitution by tonic remedies. Now, from this it will be seen, that in three of the chief London Institutions, they follow three different methods of treatment. And certainly they all prove more or less successful, but from my observation I should, certainly, prefer that adopted by Mr. Walton; and it has the advantage of not causing the excessive pain which the local applications produce.

Purulent Ophthalmia.—This is looked upon as such a severe inflammatory disease that few physicians can be found, who, would treat it otherwise than in a strictly antiphlogistic manner. And yet, at the Central Ophthalmic Hospital, Mr. Walton and Mr. Taylor trust entirely to careful and repeated injections, with a four grain solution of sulphate of alum, and they firmly believe that if seen before the cornea becomes