

HYPERAEMIA OF THE CONJUNCTIVA.—This is either active or passive. In the active form it may be the initial stage of a catarrhal or a purulent conjunctivitis. In it the arterial circulation is increased, as is shown by the large number of small straight vessels running to the cornea. The eye has a suffused look, due to more or less increased secretion of tears. In this passive form there is a retarded and sluggish venous return. The veins are increased in size, are more tortuous, and often stand out prominently on the conjunctival surface. It is one of the most common of eye affections, and while not serious, is very annoying and uncomfortable and often renders any regular use of the eyes impossible. There is a sensation of heat, burning, and itching in the eyes, a heaviness of the lids, with a tendency to keep them closed, especially in artificial light. There may be a feeling of dryness and stiffness in the lids, experienced specially on awaking at night. A feeling of sand or grit in the eye is caused by the protrusion of the swollen veins above the level of the conjunctival surface, acting as a foreign body.

Causes.—The strain of ametropia, or wearing improper glasses, and local irritants, such as dust, foreign bodies, tobacco smoke, cold winds, are causes. The abuse of alcohol is a common cause. It is often associated with nasal catarrh, lacrymal obstruction, blepharitis, and hay fever.

Treatment.—The first step is to remove the cause as far as that can be determined. The ametropia is to be corrected. When the sunlight is complained of, smoked glasses may be worn for protection, and a shade may be used to soften