ever hope to render success a certainty, or that we can determine in any given case exactly how to proceed in order to give the patient the best possible chance of regaining vision. To begin with reclination or couching, it is inconceivable that an operation apparently so simple and easy, should have been abandoned by general consent, unless very strong objections were to be urged against it, and such we find to be the case. The principal objections are as follows:—The lens was apt to become broken and remain in part at least behind the pupil. It often ascended again and rendered the operation futile. Frequently violent inflammation followed the operation almost immediately and destroyed the eye. If everything went well for a time the dislocated lens was practically a foreign body within the eye, and as such, always liable to set up destructive changes, so that good results were often found not to be permanent. Recent statistics upon this subject are of course wanting, but those at our command seem to show that not more than 40 or 50 per cent. of satisfactory results were obtained.

Discission of senile cataract either through the cornea or sclerotic is even more unsatisfactory, for in order to effect a cure the operation must be repeated very many times, always with a risk of setting up iritis or traumatic glaucoma. I have seen one case, a man aged 58, who had had both his lenses needled thirteen times in four years and still they were not half absorbed. At this rate most persons afflicted with senile cataract would scarcely regain vision on this side of the grave.

The linear extraction invented by Gibson in 1811, soon fell into disuse, but was revived again for a short time in 1851. It was found, however, to be only adapted to soft cataracts, as any attempt to extract a hard lens through so small an opening, implied a degree of violence which even the best disposed eye could not fail to resent, nor was this all, for after the repeated introduction of traction instruments, insult was added to injury by the fragments of lens which