

canula in but two or three months, which is usually sufficient time to produce absorption of the stricture. Should there be any tendency toward return of the trouble, I replace the canula for another few months. This method of treatment of lachrymal disease has been so successful in my hands that I rarely employ any other.

Administration of Anæsthetics.*

BY DR. H. H. OLDRIGHT, TORONTO.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—The consideration of the administration of anæsthetics will bring to your recollection many cases in which you have watched the effect that was produced by chloroform or ether on that delicate organism, the human body. In our first experiences with these volatile drugs we went to work cautiously, perhaps tremblingly; poured out so many drops, waited so long, then a few more, and so on till we thought we had our patient well under. We were cautious, and we were rightly so, and may we ever err on that side if in doubt as to the effect that our anæsthetic is having on the patient. In the administration of chloroform the first question which arises is as to the form of inhaler which we will use. Generally a soft light towel is the most convenient and has certain advantages over the wire frame covered with lint.

1. If the patient expectorates or moistens the towel with his breath one can change to another spot to get a more even evaporation.
2. It is well to change occasionally to a fresh dry part to be able to see how many drops are falling.
3. The towel covers the eyes and prevents the vapor irritating them, a point with children.
4. A small corner may be used to hold near the nostrils in face operations, out of the surgeon's way.

As to the amount of chloroform to be given in the first stage there are differences of opinion among anæsthetists, some holding that it is safer to give large doses to render the patient unconscious quickly, others preferring the drop method. Here we must use our own discrimination in each individual case. With children screaming and struggling it is safe to apply about 5js. and hold it one or two inches from the nose, when in a few inhalations the cries cease and we may continue throughout the rest of the administration by the drop method. With the drop method we regulate the intervals between

*Read at meeting of Toronto Medical Society.