

entirely based upon my own experience, drawn from the very large clinical material at my disposal in the Montreal General Hospital.

Conjunctivitis is one of the commonest eye diseases which confronts both specialists and general practitioners during their career, yet in no other ocular disease has there been more room for advance, both in the matter of diagnosis and of treatment. Happily, during the past few years great progress has been made in both these particulars, and the results have been crowned with success. Looking back over my comparatively short career, well do I remember how in the old hospital days in London there was a routine treatment for conjunctivitis; the diagnosis was strictly limited by the nature of the secretion and condition of the conjunctiva, and the treatment consisted in the use, or I might say the abuse, of various astringents. In some cases this treatment happily hit the mark, but in others the result was a failure or else a prolonged chronicity. With the promulgation of the germ theory, there was an opportunity for advance, yet but little was done in this direction in eye diseases for some years. Astringents were at this time dropped to a certain extent, and antiseptic lotions took their place, yet a varying amount of empiricism persisted, and results were not always so successful as one could wish for. During the past few years, however, great strides have been made by Koch-Weeks, Morax and Axenfeld; new germs have been discovered; their relationships to certain forms of ocular disease have been worked out; the conditions specially favoring their development have been studied; the symptoms they give rise to have been noted; and lastly, what is of most importance to the clinician, appropriate remedies are being discovered. There is, however, much left to be done, as evidenced, for example, by the uncertainty which overhangs the germ of that scourge, trachoma.

To start with, be it remembered the conjunctival sac in the new-born is held to be free from bacteria, but immediately the infant has entered on its existence in this world, the conjunctiva is exposed to infection from the atmosphere or from the skin, with which it is in immediate proximity at the edges of the lids. The organisms thereafter found in the eye vary greatly in their nature and pathogenicity. Their malignancy depends a great deal upon the resisting power of the organism. It would appear that it is impossible to render the conjunctival sac absolutely sterile, since any bactericide sufficiently strong to effect this would exert a deleterious influ-