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Original Communications.

SOME PRACTICAL POINTS IN THE TREATMENT OF GRANULAR LIDS.

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Of all the diseases of the eye which present themselves for treatment, the one which is most common, and which forces itself on the attention of the general practitioner most annoyingly, is trachoma. Cohin* has shown that 30 per cent. of all eye diseases are affections of the conjunctiva, and that 9 per cent. of blindness is caused by trachoma. In Canada it is a very prevalent disease, especially among the lumbermen, navvies, and the poorer class of farmers. The reason it is so often met with in these classes of the population is, that these people are herded together in small space: the washing utensils and towels are used in common; the air of the sleeping and eating room is laden with tobacco fumes and smoke from an open fire-place or from a defective flue. The food is unvarying in character, with too great a predominance of fat pork and an almost entire absence of vegetables in winter. Under these influences the general health declines, predisposing the individual to contagion. This disease origin-

ates exclusively from contagion from another eye affected with trachoma. Contagion takes place from the secretions: infection by the atmosphere, formerly accepted, is no longer regarded as sound doctrine. The secretion from the eye probably owes its contagious character to the existence of a micrococcus, which has not as yet been very definitely defined.

In the treatment, three objects have to be kept in view: firstly, to allay the inflammatory complications and diminish secretion; secondly, to diminish and remove the conjunctival hypertrophy; and, thirdly, to restore the general health, which is almost invariably impaired.

To accomplish the first two objects, antiseptics and astringent caustics are to be used. The mode of use is illustrated by the following case: J. Y., *æt.* 29, farmer, applied for treatment, April 30, 1891. He stated that his eyes had been troubling him for about a year, but that they had been much worse since a long drive he had been obliged to take in March. Examination showed the conjunctiva to be marked hyperæmic, looking much like a ripe raspberry; cornea normal; secretion very considerable: a good deal of irritation, but no pain about the eye. Ordered—Acid boric \mathfrak{ss} , to be dissolved in very warm water and then applied freely to the eye with an eye-cup three times a day. After three days of this treatment the irritation had greatly subsided: vascularization had lessened, as had also the secretion. It being evident that it was a case of true trachoma, I proceeded to

* Eulenberg's *Real Encyclopædia der Hist Kirde*, 1880.