

Ophthalmology.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF FRANK BULLER,

Sympathetic Ophthalmia.

GASPARRINI. "Researches in Sympathetic Ophthalmia." *Annali di Ollalmologia*, XXX., 4.

DE WEAVER. "Extra-ocular Complications of Sympathetic Ophthalmia." *Annales d'Oculistique*, Oct., 1901.

Gasparrini found that after inoculating attenuated cultures of the diphtheria bacillus in one eye of a rabbit, symptoms developed in the other eye similar to sympathetic ophthalmia in many. Later investigations of two clinical cases have convinced him that the sympathetic disease is due to toxins evolved by the bacteria, rather than to the bacteria themselves. The toxins are conveyed along the sheath of the optic nerve, setting up an inflammation of the optic nerve and also probably of the ciliary nerves.

The toxicity of the urine in these two cases increased as the sympathetic inflammation reached a maximum, and diminished as the eye symptoms improved, thus differing from those cases of neuritis of renal or cardiac origin. In the latter form of neuritis the toxic products accumulate from deficient elimination by the kidneys, the intoxication being general: whereas in the former the neuritis is due to local infection and the toxic products are promptly eliminated by the kidneys.

De Wecker cites a series of cases, including one of his own, in which sympathetic ophthalmia was complicated by the sudden development of nerve deafness. The deafness attacks both sides with equal intensity, irrespective of the eye first attacked. It is associated thus also with parenchymatous nephritis. The possible explanation is that the deafness is the result of a migration of micro-organisms along the optic nerves to the auditory nerves, producing changes similar to those produced in the eye.

Corneal Lesions.

PERRIN. "Intra ocular Injections in Suppurative Keratitis, Hypopyon Iritis, and Irido-Choroiditis." *Recueil d'Ophthalmologie*, Sept., 1901.

PFLUGER. "Subconjunctival Injections of Hctol." *Klin. Monatsbl. f. Augenheilkunde*, Sept., Oct., 1901.