

pressing its inferior edge firmly upon the face, over the lower orbital and molar region. The upper portion of the plaster is then allowed to fall upon the closed upper lid, when, if previously properly moistened, it will hold the lid secure by its own weight even without mild pressure.

Another point of much importance in the successful treatment of cataract patients is, after the first twenty-four or forty-eight hours, allowing time for the union of the wound, to advise the patient to keep the eyes open, at intervals in the dark room, as long as it is found comfortable, night having excluded all injurious light from the apartment. This accustoms the retina to moderate light, which when daily increased by gradually admitting more light into the chamber, will soon enable the eye, when shaded by a colored glass, to stand even some light after two or three weeks. The common practice of keeping the eye closed until eight or ten days have elapsed, when it is suddenly brought out in strong light for examination, cannot be too severely censured. The rational process of gradually introducing light from the second day of the operation will, by the tenth day enable the eye to bear for several hours sufficient light to permit a very satisfactory examination. Experience has taught every surgeon that trouble after cataract operations often dates from the moment of inspecting the injured eye, and can readily be accounted for in the sudden and extreme changes of light to which the sensitive eye is during a few minutes exposed. Up to this examination all had gone well, immediately after it all is excitement, and the patient racked with agonizing pain, is fortunate, if, after several days of torture, an eye with very indifferent vision is saved. Ample experience has proved the value of the above suggestions.—*Am. Med. Times.*

#### TREATMENT OF HOUSEMAID'S KNEE BY THE THREAD SETON.

(Under the care of Mr. SKEY.)

At the present time three girls, of the respective ages of fifteen, sixteen, and seventeen years, are to be seen, in one ward of the above hospital, who are the subjects of enlarged bursæ over the knee, brought on by kneeling on a hard floor or stone steps whilst following their occupation as servants. The occurrence so early in life is unusual; but there is no reason why females of all ages should not be subject to this affection if exposed to the causes which give rise to it. We recollect an instance, in University College Hospital, of a young man, under Mr. Erichsen's care, with an enlarged bursa over one of his knees, the result of his peculiar calling, which was that of a tacker down of carpets.

When Mr. Skey's patients were admitted, all the acute signs of inflammation had subsided; but the enlarged bursæ remained filled with fluid. Various plans of treatment are recommended for this affection, including, amongst others, repeated evacuation by punctures, until the bursal sac secretes no further fluid, or is obliterated by inflammation. Simple as this process is, however, fatal consequences have ensued by the society of the constitutional symptoms. Mr. Skey's practice is to pass through the tumour a thickish thread, which is allowed to remain in. This sets up inflammatory action, known by a little redness around the entrance of the thread, and the swelling either subsides altogether, or, what is more common, an abscess forms, which is opened, and the cavity becomes obliterated. In these three patients this treatment was followed out, and suppuration took place in all, with the result of cure. In one—the girl of sixteen—erysipelas was contracted in the knee, and in the foot of the same leg, from a patient in the neighbouring bed. An abscess formed in the foot, which was opened, and the erysipelas is disappearing under the use of quinine internally.

Mr. Skey applies the seton to all forms of housemaid's knee. He thinks it is perhaps better suited, however, to the hard and indurated bursa.

There are some examples of this disease, wherein the walls of the cyst have become so thick and solid that no plan of treatment short of actual removal will prove of any