

been, (and nothing that I have heard lately tends to shake it,) that however dense these opacities become, even were they as white as paper, they will be obliterated in time, unless the product of destructive ulceration in the cornea consequent on wounds or ulcers; unless in fact, they are actual cicatrices."

Cold comfort this to give to a poor fellow blind of both eyes from *nebulæ* or *leucomata*, that if he will only have patience, nature will cure him before he dies, or perhaps not; for, says Dr. Jacob, surgery can do nothing for him.

Now, from considerable experience, I assert that a majority of cases of opacity of the cornea are curable or susceptible of great amelioration, and even in many of those opacities caused by cicatrices, their extent may be diminished, and vision restored to a greater or less extent.

If a case of blindness from opacity of the cornea presents itself to me, of many months or years standing, and that under treatment the opacities are removed, and sight restored in from four to six weeks, have I not a right to conclude that the treatment operated the cure, if not, then no fact in therapeutics is sure: *a fortiore*, if many such cases present themselves with similar results, the inference must be irresistible.

I propose to give two cases severally of *albugo*, *leucoma*, and *nebula*, their treatment and results. During thirteen months, forty-eight cases of opacity of the cornea have been treated at the Montreal Eye and Ear Institution, of which twenty-three were *nebulous*. Of these, eighteen were cured and five relieved: of eighteen with *albugo*—twelve were cured and six relieved; of seven with *leucoma*—six were relieved, and one abandoned as incurable. In selecting the following cases, I wish it to be understood that, if desirable, I could furnish many more.

CASE 1.—ALBUGO.

Mary Harrigan, æt. 30, wife of a labourer, April 2r 1846, had had sore eyes for three years; for a year had merely distinguished the light, and the outline of large dark objects, and had not been able to go alone through the streets. She had an *albugo* on the right eye and three on the left, completely obstructing vision. Perfectly cured in six weeks. Treatment—fumigations with hydrocyanic acid every day for ten minutes; after the lapse of another ten minutes, put one drop of a solution of nitrate of silver, gr. x. a. ʒi. into the eyes. For first fortnight took a wineglass full of the following mixture every morning—

R. Infusi Gentianæ, ʒviii.
Sulphatis Magnesiæ, ʒi.
Acid Sulph. Arom., ʒss. m.

CASE 2.—ALBUGO.

Feb. 8, 1846.—Ann O'Berne, æt. 26, a servant, has been gradually losing the sight of the left eye for some time, but had lost it completely for the last eight months. Dr. —, to whom she had applied, told her nothing could be done. On examination, I found an *albugo* completely obstructing the pupil of the left eye, in fact, occupying the whole cornea. Cured in two months. Treatment as in preceding case.

CASE 3.—LEUCOMA.

Dec. 26, 1846.—John Gilliland, æt. 22, a ploughman, had *leucoma* of both eyes, completely occupying the left cornea, and preventing all ingress of light. The lower third of the right cornea was imperfectly clear, allowing of sufficient light to pass to enable him to guide himself through the street. Sufficiently cured in three months to guide the plough, a very small spot only remaining on the right cornea, and that not over the axis of vision; a small round spot over the axis of vision on the left cornea was removed. Treatment—daily fumigation of the eyes with hydrocyanic acid, and the subsequent application of Janin's ophthalmic ointment, and every ten days the application of the solid nitrate of silver to the cornea. Internally took gentian and salts.

CASE 4.

Feb. 11, 1846.—David Wark, æt. 14, some time previously had received a severe blow on the left eye with a stick, which had ruptured the cornea horizontally, and in healing had left a cicatrix about three lines broad across the eye; to the outer side of the cornea the iris had prolapsed and become attached to the cicatrix. He saw only the upper and under part of each object. Dismissed in six weeks with the cicatrix reduced to a mere line, and, by his description, the vision as good as in the right. Treatment—daily fumigations with vapour of hydrocyanic acid, and a small portion of the following ointment put into the eyes each day—

R. Ungt. Ophthal. Jan.
— Hyd. nit.
— Cetacei aa ʒi. m.

CASE 5.—NEBULA.

June 11, 1846.—Robert Hughes, æt. 55, a veteran, was led to the Institution by his wife; the right eye was destroyed, and vision in the left was completely prevented by *nebula*, both the result of inflammation. He had just arrived from New York, where he had been under the surgical treatment of the most eminent practitioners in that city, and hitherto the case had only gone on from bad to worse. After two months' daily attendance, he was discharged with very fair vision, sufficient to enable him to transact his ordinary business. Before returning to Wales, his native country, he left a certificate with