

curious to observe the difference in the intensity of the disease; in four it progressed with such rapidity that in a very few days, they either lost the use of one, or both eyes, while in others, although the disease was sufficiently active, it terminated with but slight opacity of the cornea; in the remainder, notwithstanding that the conjunctival inflammation lasted even for a longer time, it left none of these inconveniences behind it. Was this difference dependent upon the amount of infectious matter applied to the eye, or was it contingent upon peculiarity of constitution? Possibly of both. Another instance occurred in this city, at a lodging house, when a blacksmith, having gonorrhœa, inoculated his eyes with some matter on his finger. Soon afterwards, the disease of the eye evinced itself, and he wiped them on the towel used in the establishment. In a short time, six individuals were attacked with symptoms of acute inflammation of the conjunctiva. In these instances, however, although the inflammation was very intense (but being seen early) active treatment evidently arrested the disease; for notwithstanding some cases were of a protracted character, none fortunately had to deplore the loss of vision, or any great deformity, as the consequence.

The treatment of these cases of gonorrhœal ophthalmia, was identical in character with those indicated under the head of Purulent Ophthalmia; some of the cases, however, demanded even a more active antiphlogestic treatment. Blood-letting was repeated to a greater extent in those cases that were marked with the more rapid progress of the inflammatory action. In two cases, I incised the conjunctiva, as recommended by Mr. Tyrrell. In these, the chemosed structure bled freely, and the feeling of distension was considerably relieved; but that this operation upon the conjunctival membrane, had any other than a secondary influence upon the cornea, I could not conceive, being assured that the cornea proper derives its vessels from the schlerotic portion of the circulation, which would be beyond the reach of the knife, under present circumstances.

#### *Purulent Ophthalmia of Infants.*

The symptoms which the cases of this disease presented, showed a marked affinity with the preceding variety; in fact, they were cases of acute inflammation of the conjunctiva, occurring from a similar cause, in the eyes of a new-born infant. The disease commenced in each case on about the third or fourth day, and soon took on a severe character. The eyes, which were freely open, appeared clear and bright after birth, as soon as the disease began, were kept constantly closed; the lids swelled and looked red, and there was a great discharge of yellow purulent fluid. If an attempt was made to examine the eye-ball, the orbicularis muscle closed spasmodically, and sometimes caused