

STRUMOUS OPHTHALMIA.

Case 5.—In my early years of practice, and before eye specialists were much in evidence in Montreal, cases of this disease were not at all uncommon in my practice. But of late years they have been comparatively few. About five years ago, at one of my clinics in the General Hospital, a woman forced her way into the room against the will of the porter. She had a child in her arms, whom he claimed, and correctly, was a patient for the eye department. The woman, however, begged to see me, and I at once recognized the child, a boy, aged two and a half years, to be suffering from strumous ophthalmia, and, a large number of students being present, I took advantage of the case to give a clinic on this disease, after which I told her she must go to the eye department for treatment. A few days later she came to my office and told me that for nearly three months she had taken the child regularly to an hospital eye clinic without its receiving the slightest benefit. She asked me to treat the child, admitting poverty, but promising some remuneration (which I never received). The condition of the little patient was as follows:—The fists of both hands were pressed up against the eyes, while the head was bent on the chest, so as to cut off as much light as possible. The eyelids were inflamed, and thick, whitish yellow matter oozed from each. It was impossible to examine the condition of the eye, owing to the struggles of the little patient. The mother was instructed as to the necessity of keeping the eyes clean with pieces of absorbent cotton, and a few drops of a five grain to the ounce solution of nitrate of silver were placed in the angle of the eye, and by manipulation made their way under the eyelids. The child was ordered a teaspoonful of pure cod liver oil three times a day. For a week the child was brought daily to my office without there being any visible improvement. I then increased the nitrate of silver solution to ten grains. In a few days there was a marked decrease in the amount of discharge and the silver solution was now only used three times a week. In six weeks the discharge was entirely gone, and examination showed the eyes to be healthy, but weak. The lids were