

DISEASES OF THE EYE.

CHAPTER I.

DISEASES OF THE CONJUNCTIVA.

These form about thirty per cent. of all the affections of the eye falling under the care of the surgeon. The conjunctiva being a mucus membrane, is subject to the changes to which mucus tissues in general are liable, as well as to some which are peculiar to itself. Through the nasal duct, it may participate by continuity in the inflammatory processes of the nose. It is also implicated, to a greater or less extent, in the inflammations of the anterior part of the eyeball,—keratitis, iritis, and cyclitis. It seldom takes part in the affections of the choroid and retina. The only contagious diseases of the eye are some of those affecting the conjunctiva. The most noticeable feature in a conjunctiva in a state of inflammation is a change in the vascularization. In health the transparency of the membrane is but little affected by the number or size of the vessels, the white