

operations done for uncomplicated senile cataract in the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital during the last three years. The diagram is intended to show the three methods of extraction chiefly in vogue at the present time. The dotted line No. 1 is, as you will perceive, intended to represent the line of incision for the linear extraction of Von Gräfe. It differs very much from No. 2, in which the dotted line represents what may be called the oblique corneal, or median flap operation, the puncture and counter-puncture being made at or a short distance behind the sclero-corneal junction, in the horizontal meridian, and without iridectomy. The same knife may be used for its performance as in the Von Gräfe operation, its blade forming an angle with the plane of the iris, of about 45° , until the section is completed.

No. 3, which I shall call the sclero-corneal operation, is the modification of Von Gräfe's incision, now adopted by many eminent ophthalmic surgeons. The puncture and counter puncture are made nearer the corneal margin, the corneal flap is larger than the latter, and the top of the incision is usually made entirely within the cornea, consequently no conjunctival flap is formed.

Of course there is no absolutely fixed point for commencing the incision in any one of these operations, and hence certain variations will occur, partly accidental and partly intentional. The linear extraction of Von Gräfe, slightly modified, is I believe still practised by most German ophthalmologists, as well as by many others both in Europe and America.

The oblique corneal method, done either upwards or downwards, but without iridectomy, has not nearly so many supporters, though, for reasons I shall presently mention, it is likely to remain in favor with a certain number of operators. Lastly, the sclero-corneal operation seems to have found more favour in England than elsewhere, and it is more frequently performed at the Royal London Ophthalmic, than any other operation; though, it must be admitted, with such an amount of variation at the hands of different