

knife that is bent close behind the widest part of the blade; and the assistant must use very great care in rolling the ball downwards.

Mr. Carter, of Stroud, England, performed iridectomy 57 times without any mischance; there are however certain disadvantages that may arise from the operation; under certain circumstances the outbreak of laucoma in the other eye may be accelerated; in some cases the incisions in the sclerotic heals imperfectly ("cystoid cicatrix;") but these are very slight drawbacks when compared to the "inestimable boon which the operation affords."

In confirmation of the views expressed in the foregoing pages in favour of iridectomy, I make the following quotations, with which I must bring this lecture to a close:

"An immediate operation for strangulated hernia can never be more essential to the preservation of life than an immediate iridectomy frequently is to the preservation of eyesight. The time during which it can be usefully performed is often very limited, and the patient whose case requires it has a right to expect relief at the hands of the nearest practitioner. There can be no doubt, I think, of the correctness of the opinion advanced, a year or more ago, by the Editor of the *British Medical Journal*, to the effect that any surgeon who neglected iridectomy in the presence of certain indications for its performance, would incur great risk of being mulcted in very heavy damages as the defendant in an action for malpractice." (Carter.)

"From the first introduction of iridectomy into England, in 1857, it has proved the source of the greatest blessings to numerous sufferers; and now that the indications for it, and the mode of performing it, are generally understood, there will very shortly, in my opinion, be no excuse for any one, oculist or general surgeon, who shall neglect either to perform it himself in suitable cases, or to pass on his patient to some one who will." (Bowman)

REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS.

Chloroform: its Action and Administration. By ARTHUR ERNEST SANSOM, M. B., London, late House Surgeon and Physician-Accoucheur's Assistant to King's College Hospital. 8vo. pp. 279 Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blackiston. 1866.

The work before us consists of twenty chapters on the subject of chloroform, its action and administration. Chapters one and two, are