

OPHTHALMOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.

IN CHARGE OF J. T. DUNCAN.

Syphilitic Necrosis of the Nasal Cavity, Accompanied with Total Blindness.

In the *Philadelphia Medical Journal* C. A. Todd reports a case of Syphilitic Necrosis of the Nasal Cavity, accompanied with total blindness.

The case here described of syphilitic disease of the nasal cavity is of interest outside of rhinology because of the ophthalmic complication.

The patient was sent to the clinic by Dr. Wilson, of the Eye Department, for Nasal Treatment. Almost complete destruction of the nasal septum was found, and, after proper cleansing of the parts, dead bone was found. Four pieces were removed on that occasion, and other pieces afterwards. All these pieces were removed without difficulty, and, after several visits, the cavity assumed a more healthy appearance.

By posterior rhinoscopy and palpation the vault of the pharynx was found to be intact; also, it was plainly seen that the anterior part of the body of the sphenoid was unhurt. The eye affection then could not be referred to extension of necrosis. The man assured me that he never had had any eye trouble before, nor headaches, but such as might be explained by a disordered stomach.

Through the kindness of Dr. Wilson, I am able to present the following data: three weeks previous to the patient's first visit, December 11th, he noticed the sight of the right eye grow dim, "as though something were coming over the eye." In six or seven days the eye became completely blind. Meanwhile the left eye fell into the same condition, and by December 7th it also became completely blind. December 11th: no vision in either eye. During the last four days he had had at different times three distinct flashes of light. For some days he had had continued pain in the region of the right temple, "a jerking headache." He was at once put on potassium iodide and the protiodide of mercury. December 16th.—Is now taking 20 grains of potassium iodide three times daily and $\frac{1}{2}$ grain of the protiodide twice. Headache was much better by the 15th, and is now gone. He had no more flashes of light. Thinks he catches some glimpses of light. Appetite has been good all along. December 18th.—With left eye distinguishes between light and shade. December 20th.—With left eye counts fingers held against the light. He can get about the house alone. December 21st.—Sight of left eye improving; with the right eye he can distinguish between light and shade. December