

With regard to the treatment, nothing can be more simple. It consists solely in the continual removal of the purulent secretion by syringing the eyes with an astringent solution. That which is employed in this hospital is, as you are aware, a solution of four grains of alum in one ounce of water. The printed instructions are always given in such cases direct that it shall be employed every half hour; it is not supposed that this order is literally complied with, but ensures its being very frequently used—perhaps once every hour. At the same time, I direct that the lids shall be kept well smeared with fresh lard, so as to prevent their agglutination, and the consequent confinement of the discharge; when this precaution has been neglected, as in children which are brought for the first time to the hospital, you will frequently see a rush of pus, as if a large abscess had been opened, when the eyelids are separated. I have never seen any injury result from the use of the syringe, as is apprehended by some; with proper instructions there are few nurses so obtuse as not to be able to perform the necessary manipulation with perfect safety, and the more that the eyeball lies deeply embedded in, and protected by, the swollen eyelids. The only risk, is to the eyes of the operator, from the spouting up of the injected fluid; but this danger may be easily avoided by directing the stream laterally from either angle of the eye to the other; and in all cases the highly contagious nature of the disease should be fully explained, and suitable precautions should be carefully enjoined. Of the many hundreds of cases which have been treated at this hospital in this simple manner, I think I am justified in asserting that not one has turned out badly, in which the treatment has been commenced while the cornea still retained its brilliancy, and in which the instructions have been followed out with even moderate care. Having, therefore, good grounds for believing in its efficacy, I prefer it to some of the much more energetic methods which are sometimes recommended, and especially to the treatment by powerful stimulants or escharotics, as the sulphate of copper or the nitrate of silver, either in substance or strong solution. Such applications are intensely painful, and though they may undoubtedly arrest the disease, they are liable to leave a granular condition of the palpebral conjunctiva which it is difficult to get rid of, and which not unfrequently leads to serious after-consequences. In weak solution, not exceeding one grain of the salt to one ounce of distilled water, the nitrate of silver is a safe and powerful agent in arresting conjunctival inflammation, and those who have not confidence in the simpler method, may employ it several times a-day, after carefully washing away the purulent secretion by means of the syringe. It is rarely used in the hospital, simply because it is not found to be necessary.

With regard to leeches, which are so very generally recommended, the same remark applies. The most acute cases are found to recover rapidly and safely without using them, and therefore they are discarded. It may be objected that the subjects of Hospital practice are born of poor parents, ill fed, exposed to an impure atmosphere, and therefore weakly and cachectic; and that we cannot reason from them to the children of parents in a higher rank of life. But these debilitating influences do not seem to have much effect until the child has been for some time exposed to them; the offspring of the poorest parents, when free from