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Original Memoirs

* THE BENIGN PSEUDO-TRACHOMA OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

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During the past ten years the people of New York and, to a lesser extent, of the whole country have been much worked up over the subject of trachoma. The excitement began when the United States Immigration authorities, anxious to find some excuse for getting rid of a very inferior class of immigrants—many of whom from the ravages of the disease were likely eventually to become public charges—made the perfectly proper ruling that, as trachoma was contagious and dangerous, all immigrants afflicted with it should be refused admittance to the country.

A little later the medical inspectors of public schools, eager to show the utility of their work which was then in its infancy, discovered that from ten to twenty-five per cent. of the children were suffering from an eye disease which was declared to be identical with the trachoma of immigrants. Without immediate and radical treatment, it was said, many of these unfortunate children would undoubtedly become blind or be seriously handicapped for life. A similar condition of affairs was at

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