

carefully in just sufficient sulphuric acid to hold the salt in solution, was preferable to either the hydrochloride or the acid sulphate, both of which were soluble in water; and it was recommended to be used in a one per cent. solution. The eyes should be soaked in the solution for five minutes four or five times a day, and in addition a thorough irrigation daily by an undine filled with the solution was advised. It caused very little discomfort, and patients used it readily, but stronger solutions gave rise to pain and had no advantage. When the treatment was going to be successful, improvement showed itself within a few days, and if no manifest benefit was obtained within a week it might be discontinued. The rapidity of healing under this treatment was at times remarkable, and the author had seen many formidable-looking ulcers heal by this treatment alone within a week. A list of several cases of corneal ulceration treated by this method within the last three years was appended to the paper.

### **The Rationale of Moist Cold Applications in Acute Contagious Ophthalmia.**

Weeks writes on this subject in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* of December 10th, 1904. He says that in considering this matter it is well to bear in mind the thermal conditions under which the pneumococcus, Koch-Weeks' bacillus, gynococcus, and Klebs-Loeffler bacillus develop. The thermal range of development of the pneumococcus is between about 55° to 110° F.; of the Koch-Weeks' bacillus and the gynococcus 85° to 110° F.; of the Klebs-Loeffler bacillus about the same as the pneumococcus. The object of cold applications is really to inhibit the growth of the specific microorganism. This can be accomplished in the cases of conjunctivitis caused by microorganisms that do not develop below 88° F., as by cold applications the temperature of the conjunctiva may be reduced approximately to 92° F. In cases due to microorganisms that develop below 92° F., cold does little good.

Moist heat applied to the lids cannot be employed to raise the temperature of the conjunctiva above 110° F., seldom above 102° F., consequently it is of no value as an agent to inhibit the growth of the microorganisms concerned. It is only of value to assist in disposing of effete material, plastic or otherwise, which may be present in the tissues by rendering the flow of blood and lymph more free.