

To peruse the records of the treatment of cataract in the early portion of the century and place them in comparison with modern methods is painfully impressive. Anæsthesia general and local was of course unknown. Suppuration in a more or less degree was an almost ever present accompaniment of an operation for cataract. Severe reaction, due mostly to septic causes, was the rule, to subdue which patients were subjected to repeated venesections, dosed with calomel and opium until severe salivation supervened, and in the later stages, provided that the eye and the patient had survived, they were extensively blistered behind the ear, over the nape of the neck, and sometimes between the shoulders.

There was another disease of the eye, glaucoma, which baffled all treatment, moreover the most distressing feature about it was that its onset and progress always tended to terminate in blindness. Since then the experience of many years has shown that the most brilliant results have been obtained by a simple operation known as iridectomy, counteracting as it does the destructive effects of the disease upon vision.

*The Chest.* The surgery of the chest is an example equally vivid. The story of the treatment of empyema as it existed in the early part of the century is one of the darkest pages of the whole history of surgery. Literature streams with the great mortality following the management of the disease. Out of twelve cases under the care of Velpeau not one recovered, out of fifty cases under the care of Dupuytren all but two died, and Sir Astley Cooper complained that he could not get one single cure. To-day if we eliminate complications the mortality may be reckoned below ten per cent.

*Abdominal Surgery.* This is a field so vast that an account of it is beyond the possibilities of time. Its establishment had its foundation in the operation known as ovariectomy. It was during the first decade of the nineteenth century that Ephraim McDowell, by performing the first successful operation, contributed to surgery one of its greatest triumphs. The establishment of ovariectomy upon a sound basis revolutionized abdominal surgery, and it is difficult to estimate the amount of good which it has bestowed upon humanity. The student of fifty years ago would see an occasional operation for strangulated hernia, there