

sels. In one case there was sarcoma of the sphenoidal sinus, in another, infectious posterior rhinitis in which the sphenoid shared, and in the third case, purulent posterior rhinitis also implicating the sphenoid. Operation on these nasal conditions produced no improvement of the neuritis which progressed steadily to optic atrophy. Kaplan's symptoms of neuralgia, photophobia, lachrymation, blepharospasm, and erysipelatous redness of the root of the nose, were wanting. The involvement of the optic nerve was due to the close connection between the sphenoidal sinus, on the one hand, and the optic canal and upper part of the intraorbital portion of the optic nerve, on the other.

Heilmaier found in thirteen hundred cases that in only sixty-four was the nasal mucous membrane in a normal condition. In disease of the tear passages, nasal trouble was almost always present, generally rhinitis atrophica foetida. Eczematous affections of the eye are almost invariably associated with similar conditions in the nose. Catarrhal conjunctivitis is frequently caused by disease of the nasal mucous membrane. Serpiginous ulcer of the cornea is attended essentially by those nasal affections which are most frequently associated with blenorrhœa of the lachrymal sac.

Acain ; A New Local Anæsthetic.

RANDOLPH. "Acain : A New Local Anæsthetic." *Ophthalmological Record*, August, 1899.

BRUDENALL CARTER. *Lancet*, October 21, 1899.

DARIER. *Die Ophthal. Record*, August 5, 1899.

RANDOLPH. *Transactions Amer. Ophthal. Society*, 1899.

Acain is a new anæsthetic which, so far, seems to have a very limited application in eye diseases, as will be inferred from the results obtained by the authors of these three papers.

Darier and Carter found its main use in rendering painless the subconjunctival injection of cyanide of mercury, where both cocaine and orthoform failed.

Randolph's conclusions are valuable in regard to its general usefulness in ocular therapeutics. Acain is a white powder easily soluble in water in the proportion of one per cent., it is derived from guanin and is allied to caffeine and theobromine.

(1) Acain, in the proportion of 1 to 100 and 1 to 300. causes satisfactory anæsthesia in an *unirritated* eye in about the same length of time as cocaine.

(2) In more than one case, where the eye was congested, repeated instillations of acain were incapable of producing satisfactory anæsthesia.