

tions. The upper margin of the cornea was still heavily clouded. In the month of June there was a further improvement in the lower part but not sufficiently to admit of sight. The upper part remained obstinately unaltered; and there were no indications which led me to hope for a change for the better. To continue the treatment until the inflammation had completely subsided, as there were no fears of a reaccession, and then to make an artificial pupil seemed to be the only course left. On reflecting upon the great difference in the improvement of the upper and lower parts of the cornea, the question suggested itself what is the cause of this difference, what reason is there for such an improvement in the one and such a want of it in the other? There was certainly greater opacity—but what had produced it and what was continuing it? In both eyes it was the same, both lower margins clear, both upper ones clouded—there was therefore the same cause at work in both eyes, and that cause appeared to be the irritation produced by the continual application and friction of the roughened edge of the upper eyelid. Although the palpebral lining membrane appeared perfectly healthy and the tarsal margin equally so, yet from the facts of the case and from the force of exclusion this could be the only cause of the difference. To obviate this irritation seemed the one thing needful. Accordingly after every application of the nitrate of silver, I applied pure fresh cod liver oil to the under surface of the eyelids. It is not strong language if I say that the effect was almost magical, and if it surprised the patient, who had long before given up the hope of ever seeing again, it no less surprised me, for it exceeded more than I dared to hope for. The cornea began to improve at once; and in the month of August was quite clear, and the patient in possession of tolerable sight. She is now at home doing the ordinary work of a country farm house, enjoying good serviceable sight; and has been spared the operation for artificial pupil, which, to enable her to see at all, at one time appeared inevitable.

Perhaps the improvement was owing to two things—both to the lubricating properties of the oil, and to a power which from its composition we may safely say it had over the deposit, viz., that of hastening its absorption. In a subsequent case the oil proved equally efficacious, and fully realized the expectations the former case had led me to form of it.

Knowing the almost invariable unequal improvement of the cornea in these cases, and attributing this to the only cause which a careful examination can discover, we may safely come to the conclusion, assisted by the case related, that a lubricating agent possessing medicinal power like cod liver oil would prove a most valuable auxiliary in the treatment of chronic ophthalmia, and would go far towards obviating the necessity for, and diminishing the number of operations for artificial pupil. It is worthy a trial at the hands of all medical men; and I feel confident that at no distant day it will be esteemed as one of the indispensable agents necessary for the successful treatment of chronic ophthalmia.

Exeter, County of Huron, Nov. 18, 1862.