

Ophthalmology

D. N. MACLENNAN, W. H. LOWRY.

The Antagonism of Eserine and Atropine. *Ophthalmoscope,* April, 1911.

Stanculeanu and Rasvan, of Bucharest, have experimented to ascertain the facts of the antagonism of eserine and atropine. Eleven persons received two drops of 1 per cent. atropine solution. In 6 to 10 minutes the pupil began to dilate and the maximum was reached in 15 to 20 minutes. The pupil contracted to normal in 7 to 14 days. Half per cent. solution of atropine was placed in the eyes of seven persons. Dilatation began in 6 to 10 minutes. Complete mydriasis was attained in 15 to 25 minutes. Six to nine days elapsed before the effect went off. One-fifth per cent. solution acted just as quickly, but the pupils became normal again in from 60 to 184 hours. A drop of oily solution of eserine reduced this time to from 60 to 120 hours. These observers found out that the antagonism was very little, and they concluded that eserine only controlled atropine for a very short time, and that the atropine soon regained the mastery. Similar experiments with homatropine showed that the eserine reduced the period of action of homatropine from 36 to 60 hours to 20 to 50 hours.

W. H. L.

The Non-Surgical Treatment of Cataract. *Ophthalmoscope,* April, 1911.

Louis D'Or, of Lyons, has become a firm supporter of the method of treating incipient cataracts by means of locally applied drugs. His investigations have been based upon the theory, that a hydrating ferment is obtained in the aqueous humor from the blood, and this ferment determines the hydration of the albumens of the lens.

He uses in an eye-bath the following solution:—

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| Desiccated sodium iodide..... | 5 grms. |
| Crystallised calcium chloride | 5 grms. |
| Distilled water | 400 grms. |

The uncovered cornea is exposed to this solution, which is warmed, for half an hour each day. D'Or says that with this solution one can check the progress of at least eight cataracts out of ten, can cure one, and can expect failure in the tenth.

W. H. L.