

conservative surgery presents its strongest claims. Ask anyone who has submitted to enucleation how much he would have preferred a harmless though maimed eye-ball to the artificial one. Observe how much better the appearance of an artificial eye worn over a shrunken globe or a good stump than where enucleation has been performed.

This brings me to the points I wish more particularly to emphasize. It is, I believe, generally conceded that children and young people are more liable to sympathetic ophthalmia than those of maturer years. Whether this belief comes from the greater liability of children to accidents of a certain kind, or whether there actually exists in them a stronger tendency to develop sympathetic trouble, I do not pretend to know, but that very many children do become the victims of sympathetic ophthalmia is a matter of common observation. It is also true that in children a threatened sympathetic trouble becomes a cause for still greater anxiety on account of the difficulty of making accurate observations and detecting slight changes in the eyes of this class of patients.

For these reasons I am aware that many ophthalmic surgeons, especially in England, do not hesitate to advise the removal of injured eyes in children, whenever the sound eye may be considered to run even a moderate risk of sympathetic ophthalmia. A few years ago I myself would hardly have questioned the soundness of this practice, but I have gradually learned to take a very different view of this subject, and indeed I am prepared to maintain that *the eye of a child should never be enucleated on account of an injury unless sympathetic ophthalmia has actually occurred*. In the first place, it is an operation which irrevocably fastens upon the unfortunate a life-long disfigurement, and one which intensifies with advancing years, for no matter how carefully an artificial eye may be adjusted the conjunctival sac fails to develop normally, and there will in many cases, after the eye of a young child has been removed, come a time when it will no longer be possible to adapt an artificial eye to look presentable. Too often, perhaps through negligence, this period is reached long before the child has reached maturity. It is easy to understand how parents hesitate to accept the counsels