

complexion, nervous temperament, aged 45 years. She has been twice married, and has been the mother of eight children, four of whom are now living. Her health has always been very good, but she complains of always having felt tired and exhausted from hard work, aggravated during her first husband's illness by want of rest. For many years previous to the failure of her sight, she complains of having suffered from severe pains in the head, referable to the vertex and frontal regions, with an occasional darting pain passing through to the occiput. These pains she calls neuralgia. She says her head has always felt too hot. Her habits have always been regular and temperate. She has never been addicted to the use of any narcotic, and there is not the least possible trace of syphilis in her history.

In 1864, her eye first became affected; it began with redness, which was attributed to "having taken cold in her eye." This redness increased, until, in a few days, the whole eye was covered with an ecchymosis, having the appearance of a blood clot; there was no pain or uneasiness felt in the eye at this time, nothing more than a slight intolerance of light. A market woman now advised her to put a lotion of *alum* into the eye, to remove the redness, which it did, but was followed in a few days by what she describes as "a most excruciating pain, of an aching character," which lasted many weeks. Her sight in that eye now began to grow gradually worse, and in a few weeks, to use her own expression, it was "stone blind." There was now frequent flashes of bright light; and upon closing the eye, the appearance of numerous stars, with other photopsies of a like character. Never more than one figure of a candle was visible at one time, and there was no circle or halo surrounding it, as is the case in Glaucoma. There was considerable neuralgic pain in the left half of the head, in the eye brow, temple, and ball of the eye especially; which latter I suppose to have been *ciliary neuralgia*. It continued in about the same condition for several months, when she was induced to apply to Dr. Thayer, who continued to treat her for several months without success. During this time two floating dark masses appeared in the eye, resembling black spiders, which, after a time, were lost in the dense darkness which settled over her eye. At this time the sight of the right eye was perfect, although she states that after the introduction of some kind of a lotion, by the person previously mentioned, she felt her sight impaired, but not to an extent sufficient to incommode her. She states that she next applied to Dr. Hingston for advice, hoping to secure the recovery of sight in her left eye,

now totally dark. That gentleman, however, she tells me, informed her that he could not render her any assistance. Her sight in the right eye continued very good, until the winter of 1868, when, on going to the window to arrange a curtain, the bright reflection of the sun upon the snow dazzled her sight so much that she turned away, and found to her great surprise that she was unable to see at all, exclaiming at the same time to her daughter, who was in the room, "Oh mercy, I am quite blind," whereupon the daughter was obliged to lead her to a seat. She states that she now remained "quite blind" for several weeks (having been blind in the left eye before), when she was persuaded to consult Dr. Smallwood, who, she states, applied blisters to the temples, behind the ears, upon the back of the arms, and gave her tonics. This so far succeeded in restoring her sight in the right eye, that she became able to read, sew, or do any thing she desired. Her sight now remained good for several weeks, but she continued to experience a pain of an aching character through the upper portion of the eye-ball. To remove this Dr. Smallwood gave her a lotion, which she put into the eye. The effect of this, however, was at once to impair the vision, and although she informed that gentleman of the circumstance, he encouraged her to persist in its use, which she did for a few days, but finally gave it up, as she felt she was rapidly losing the sight of the eye. Since then the eye has remained in a condition of almost total blindness up to the present autumn; a period of over 3 years. It may be well to mention here that presuming the lotion above mentioned to have been one of atropine, and also the one previously mentioned, as having been introduced into the eye by Dr. Thayer, to have been the same, then an explanation would be afforded for the circumstance of impairment of vision succeeding their use, for Soelberg Wells mentions that Von Graefe pointed out originally the fact that glaucomatous affections often succeed its use; and Dr. Derby, of Boston, records two cases of acute glaucoma following its instillation into the eye. He had also seen similar instances, which, he remarks, should warn us against the use of atropine unnecessarily and in this woman's case the use of atropine is followed by almost total blindness for about two hours. During the last period of blindness of the right eye, she states that she has been in the habit of discovering frequent flashes of light passing before the eye, and when closed she would frequently see a luminous circle of great brightness, interspersed with numerous brilliant stars. Sometimes she would see images of all kinds of strange