neficence of the profession, are so numerous and important, that physicians are justly entitled to the utmost consideration and respect from the community. The public ought likewise to entertain a just appreciation of medical qualifications; to make a proper discrimination between true science and the assumption of ignorance and empiricism—to afford every encouragement and facility for the acquisition of medical education—and no longer to allow the statute-books to exhibit the anomaly of exacting knowledge from physicians, under a liability to heavy penalties, and of making them obnoxious to punishment for resorting to the only means of obtaining it.

IRIDEREMIA, OR TOTAL ABSENCE OF THE IRIS.

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Irideremia, or total absence of the iris is a rare and interesting condition. The iris in the majority of these cases is completely absent; in exceptional ones a narrow ring of rudimentary tissue or a few irregular shreds represent the normal iris. As this condition, according to Von Ammon, appears about the fourth month of intra-uterine life, it is possible to estimate the period of arrest of development. Irideremia is often hereditary in the male sex, and it sometimes is transmitted directly from mother to daughter. Foachon[1] has observed 14 cases, in 28 of which it was transmitted, so that its heredity is very decided. It is generally associated with defective development of the eye in other respects; as small and pallid optic nerves, deficient choroidal pigment, imperfect ciliary muscles, subluxation of the lens and congenital cataract or general arrest of development of the eye constituting microphthalmos. In one of the cases observed by me the child itself was stunted. The eyes are generally hypermetropic; antero-posterior diameter being too short. Associated with the defective vision is the constant twitching of the eyes known as nystagmus, due to the constant effort to fix objects.

1 Gaz. Med. de Strasbourg, 1841, p. 230, quoted by Galezowski.

The appearance of the eyes is very peculiar. They have a bluish look not unlike those of a newborn puppy. The vision is very defective especially in broad daylight, from the great quantity of light which is admitted to the eye. Sometimes, however, the vision is very good, especially when aided by a perforated diaphragm (stenopic spectacles.)

Von Walther first endeavored to explain the condition by applying the theory of segmentation to individual organs, and likened it to hare-lip and spina bifida. When, however, the incorrectness of this physiological theory was proved, the application of course failed in its point.

J. Müller has lately proved the statement of Malpighi to be correct, that in various animals there is up to a certain period a definite cleft in the iris.

Fichte believed that the iris did not develope itself equally in all segments, but that some developed more slowly than others.

Arnold holds on the contrary that it is an entirely abnormal condition, due to defective development of the vascular system from which, he believes the iris is originally built.

This fact is certain, that at no time during the development of the eye does a gap exist in the iris or choroid. The cleft in the choroid is always pathological, the result of an abnormal state of the retina division, (augenspalte) and the cause of coloboma or irideremia.

Case I, "Tiny," aged about eight years, came to the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, Moorfields, after hours, when I was acting house surgeon in 1877. His sight was very defective, so that he had never been able to read, but he could make a few large strokes on the blackboard. He was highly hypermetropic, but owing to the oscillation of the eyeballs, I was unable to estimate the amount. The cornea have a bluish look, like those of a young puppy. The irides are completely absent. With the ophthalmoscope I can catch a flying view of the optic disc, which appears whiter than normal. The choroid seems healthy though deficient in pigment. He was very diminutive in stature. He had been sent out to Canada by Miss Macpherson, but owing to defective sight was sent back to England. It is said that his father, a half-witted cab-washer, had the same affection, but I was unable to find him to verify the fact.