

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS

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### A NEW OPERATION FOR THE CURE OF DETACHMENT OF THE RETINA.\*

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Detachment of the retina has always been considered an incurable disease. It is to be deplored that it destroys the eyesight in one or both eyes of many people at the best time of life and that it threatens and worries those individuals who are highly myopic and have a tendency to retinal detachment and learn their danger from friends, physicians or popular books. The most frequent cases of retinal detachment which I endeavor to cure occur in high myopia.

My operation is performed on the posterior segment of the eyeball, a new field. Until now, puncture of the sclera has been made in the anterior segment only. The operation is similar to no other method. Before describing it I will first consider the previous customary treatment of retinal detachment and then mention the circumstances which suggested to me the operation. The previous theories which tried to explain the cause of retinal detachment did not agree with the facts, whereas my theory did not ignore the principles of our known facts. I expect to discuss at the close of this article a theory of retinal detachment but only because my experience with the operation appears to throw light on this vexed problem.

The medicinal treatment of detachment consists of sweating, mercurialization, the use of a pressure eye bandage and rest in bed (Samelsohn (2) ). Hortsman (3) concludes that the best results are obtained by the present methods.

A part of this treatment is not at all clear to me. It is

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\* Münchener Medizinische Wochenschrift, No 23, June 9, 1903.

Presented by Dr. R. G. Montgomery, Winnipeg.