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Simple Conjunctival Inflammation.

Of the eleven cases of catarrhal ophthalmia, three occurred during the month of November, and eight in February, March, and April,—during which months the east wind prevailed in a remarkable degree, being generally north-easterly, while it was also for the most part dry and dusty. The influence of cold upon the constitution appeared generally as the exciting cause; but that the simple influence of cold upon the body is likely to produce the disease, without a necessary condition of the system, is contrary to medical observation. The nature of this condition is at present hid in much obscurity; but I believe it will hereafter be found to be greatly dependent upon the positive state of the blood, at the period the body is submitted to the influence of cold. When the blood is loaded with the effete, and useless material of the constitution, that should be removed by the excretions, then is the individual more susceptible to the influence; and it is a curious fact, that the speedy solution of the catarrhal disease, goes hand in hand with the liberation of the excrementitious matter by the proper emunctories of the body. For example: the urine is always found loaded, and the stools dark coloured and biliary before the inflammatory action subsides, while the check upon the excrementitious operations of the skin, has been a subject of popular observation in all ages. During the early part of the year, the influenza also occurred pretty generally in Toronto, and no doubt, had some influence in the production of the ophthalmic disease. The immediate cause of the complaint appeared to be dependent upon intemperance in four individuals, who had been exposed for a considerable time to the night air. Two were washer-women, who had been working hard in rooms heated by a stove; while one had walked a considerable distance in the rain, and got completely wet.

The symptoms presented by the individuals labouring under the complaint, were more or less redness of the conjunctival mem-