

the position of selection. In other cases the best course seems to be bodily removal from the area of the pupil by means of capsule forceps. One object of this short paper is to call renewed attention to a method of treating such cases introduced by W. Bowman, which does not seem to have been met in some quarters with the favor which its merits deserve.

BOWMAN'S DOUBLE-NEEDLE OPERATION.

In Vol. XXXVI. of "The Medico Chirurgical Transactions" (1853) is an article by William Bowman, F.R.S., F.R.C.S., "On the use of two needles at once in certain operations on the Eye, especially in those for Capsular Cataract and Artificial Pupil." "It consists in the simultaneous employment of two needles, introduced at different points through the outer coat, and made to act in concert upon false membranes, opaque capsule, or iris, or even on the lens itself under certain circumstances."

"Several advantages attend this mode of operating. Opaque portions of capsule are often very tough and being attached to the suspensory ligament of the lens or the pupillary border of the iris, these extensible structures readily allow the opaque membrane to recede before the needle, rather than be torn or cut through and the surgeon vainly sweeps the membrane before the instrument from side to side at the risk of serious injury and consecutive inflammation of the ciliary processes or iris."

"Now, if two needles are brought to bear on the opaque capsule from different sides of the cornea or sclerotica, each furnishes the other with a point of resistance and the capsule may be torn open or cut at pleasure, in almost any direction, and generally without any drag on the neighboring vascular structures."

"The needles usually act perfectly if passed through any convenient opposite points of the margin of the cornea, the pupil being always, where possible, dilated by atropine.

The injury inflicted on the organ by this mode of procedure is thus reduced to a minimum, the simple needle punctures through the cornea being in themselves trivial, and no other structures being interfered with except the capsule or membrane, which it is the object of the operation to deal with." "A great advantage of this mode of operating is, that it may at once be proceeded to in any case where on trial a single needle is found to be insufficient to effect the laceration of an obstructing membrane."

"The needles to be used should be ordinary cataract needles, the stem cylindrical and of a size to easily occupy the corneal puncture, and allow of free movement while retaining the aqueous humor. If the needles do not move freely in the puncture, the cornea is apt to be creased and