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*The Medical Society
of London,
10-2 from the Author.*

REMARKS

ON THE

TREATMENT

OF

SOME OF THE MOST PREVALENT VARIETIES

OF

INFLAMMATION OF THE EYE;

WITH

CASES.

BY

THOMAS WHATELY,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON,

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JANUARY 18, 1881

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TO
JOHN SIMS, M. D. F. R. S.

THIS LITTLE ESSAY

IS DEDICATED,

AS A

TESTIMONY OF ESTEEM

FOR

HIS LEARNING, PRIVATE CHARACTER,

AND

PROFESSIONAL ABILITY,

BY HIS OLD AND SINCERE FRIEND,

THE AUTHOR.

*Grafton Street,
6th March, 1819.*

JOHN SIMS, M.D. F.R.S.

THIS LITTLE ESSAY

IS DEDICATED

TESTIMONY OF ESTEEM

HIS LEARNING, PRIVATE CHARACTER

PROFESSIONAL ABILITY,

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THE LUTHERAN

PREFACE.

IT is not without much diffidence that the following remarks on acute inflammation of the eye are submitted to the public. They are by no means intended to embrace all the varieties of this complaint, being chiefly limited to the more prevalent kinds. The author is sensible that he has advanced nothing, either relative to the causes or treatment of these diseases, that may not be found in the writings of others. His design has been to inculcate, perhaps more strongly than has hitherto been done, the danger arising from the too common practice of having recourse to stimulating external applications; and to impress upon the minds of his readers the necessity of discarding all applications, except those of the emollient kind, in the cure of acute inflammation of the eye: and, at the same time, to shew the comparative ease and safety with which these disorders may be subdued, by copious and repeated bleedings, both general and topical, by evacuations from the bowels, and a strictly antiphlogistic regimen. Such treatment has been recommended in the writings of the best surgeons; but unhappily a contrary practice, if the author mistakes not, is

far too prevalent ; even oculists of the first eminence, as it appears to him, are in the constant habit of attempting to cure these complaints almost by local applications alone, and those frequently consisting of the most irritating ingredients.

It is the author's wish to appeal to facts ; and to bring the comparative merit of the above mentioned opposite modes of practice to the test of experience, and to rest his conclusions upon the sure foundation which its testimony affords. With this view he has adduced a number of cases, all of which the author pledges his credit to have been drawn up with the strictest adherence to truth ; many of them are indeed very imperfect, the necessary consequence of their being noted down in the hurry of business, in the presence of the patients themselves ; but though imperfect as histories of the cases, they are faithful records of the events ; and will be amply sufficient to shew the different effects of the two modes of treatment, and to prove the expediency of adopting the one recommended, as at the same time more mild, more safe, and more efficacious.

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ON INFLAMMATIONS

OF THE EYE.

THE eye, like most other parts of the human frame, is subject to a great variety of disorders ; some of these are accurately understood, and the treatment of them brought to a great degree of perfection, while blindness, and other evils, arising from improper methods of cure in others, are but too frequent. To add a little to our stock of knowledge in this branch of our art, and to contribute in some slight degree to the preservation of an organ, the most important perhaps of the human frame, is the design of this essay.

Among other complaints, the eye is peculiarly subject to inflammation, arising from different causes, and varying according to the habit of body and period of life. In the investigation of these complaints, it is my intention to confine myself chiefly to those of the acute kind.

Of these, there are three kinds which are extremely common:—1st, The inflammation of this organ in infants, which usually attacks them within a short period after they are born, and is called the purulent eye of infants. 2dly, Inflammation in scrofulous habits, to which those of all ages are subject, but it is more frequently met with in children and young people; and lastly, a very acute inflammation of the eye, most common about the middle period of life.

In the treatment of these complaints, it will be found of great importance to have an accurate knowledge of the existence and extent of the disease, nor will much difficulty be found in ascertaining this. The very appearance of the eye and eye-lids will exhibit both the nature and degree of the disease, and the mischief likely to ensue from it. The vessels of the tunica conjunctiva, which in their natural state are filled only with serous blood, will be found loaded with red globules, and more or less distended, according to the degree of inflammation. I shall first make a few general remarks on each of these kinds of inflammation, and then proceed to their treatment.

The purulent eye of infants, is a disease of a very peculiar kind; it is an acute inflammation, *sui generis*, and if ill treated, often proves very destructive to the sight, by producing a partial

or total opacity of the cornea, and other effects of inflammation in these parts. It generally commences within a short period after the child is born: sometimes the day following, at other times in three or four days, and but rarely after the seventh or eighth day. Both the upper and under eye-lids swell in a short time after the attack, and the swelling becomes often so considerable, as to render it extremely difficult to examine the state of the tunica conjunctiva or cornea. It is however certain that these parts, as well as both the eye-lids, and probably likewise all the internal vessels of the orbit, are in a state of high inflammation. A large purulent discharge commences in a very short time after the disease begins, and continues through the whole period of the complaint. In some instances, when the treatment has been improper, the cornea has not only been completely opaque, but distorted and prominent; it is probable therefore that in these cases, the organization of the eye has been destroyed. This shews that the inflammation is by no means confined to the external vessels. The constant purulent discharge likewise, which always takes place, proves that the inflammation on the superficial vessels is also very great, as this discharge could not be produced and kept up in the violent degree that we often see, unless the blood vessels

were in a state of very great excitement and inflammation. This disease, even where the common remedies for inflammation are used, often lasts for several weeks; but if left to nature, proves very troublesome, and frequently continues for the space of three months.

The scrofulous inflammation of the eyes, is a disease of very frequent occurrence, often afflicting patients labouring under the same malady in other parts of the body, and often also attacking such persons as have a tendency to it, though there may be no other symptom of this complaint. As in other forms of scrofula, it is more frequently met with in young people than in adults; and it particularly attacks children. In the scrofulous ophthalmia, sometimes one eye only is affected, at other times both, and it often happens that one eye is seized for some time before the inflammation attacks the other. The degree and duration of this kind of inflammation is extremely variable. In some, it is so slight, that the light causes but little pain or uneasiness. In others again, it is very severe in one or both eyes, and is attended with much tumefaction of the eye-lids, and with great pain, and such extreme sensibility to the light, that it is very difficult, without giving much pain, to examine the state of the different parts of the eye, in order to see whether any mischief has been, or is likely to be done to the

sight. This disease, if ill-treated, particularly by external applications of an improper kind, is very apt to continue for a considerable length of time, and to leave behind many serious consequences; the internal structure of the eye is sometimes deranged, and in a very considerable number of cases, a partial or entire opacity of the cornea succeeds. If however it is left to nature, or treated upon the antiphlogistic plan, without the use of such external applications, the consequences are not very frequently fatal to vision.

The acute inflammation in the eye of adults, is a disease of a very serious and alarming nature, and although it is not quite so common as the scrofulous inflammation, it is by no means an unfrequent disease. It is most common in persons between the ages of twenty and forty, though no period of life appears to be exempt from it, and in many cases, it makes a much more rapid progress in destroying the sight, than the purulent or scrofulous eye. Very frequently one eye only is the seat of this disease, at other times both; sometimes one eye is attacked at first, and after a few days, the other becomes affected also. This inflammation often comes on without any known cause, and is frequently attended with constant and acute pain, both in the eye itself, and in the whole head; and is sometimes so violent and destructive in its effects,

that in a short time it deprives the patient of sight. In some cases this effect has been produced in two or three days; in others, in a week or ten days; and in others again, the disease is much slower, and will linger on for several weeks, without doing any serious mischief to the eye. Nor are these effects entirely dependant upon the treatment pursued, for I have known them take place when the common remedies have been employed; but more particularly, where improper applications have been used externally. In this disorder, the eye-lids are generally much swelled and tumefied, so that partly on this account, and partly from the pain occasioned by the introduction of light, it is often very difficult to inspect the state of the eye. When, however, this can be done, the vessels of the conjunctiva, and those of this membrane reflected on the eye-lids, are found to be extremely loaded with blood. The pulse also is generally more or less accelerated and hard, and the heat of the skin is increased; but these vary of course in different cases according to the violence of the disease. There is likewise a secretion which often takes place in a large quantity, both in scrofulous and in acute inflammation. It is commonly of a watery nature, but sometimes accompanied with a purulent kind of mucus. It may be considered as an effort of nature to relieve the organ, by unloading the inflamed vessels. From a re-

view of these symptoms, it is evident that this inflammation is of an acute and very violent nature. The usual effect of continued inflammation of the eye, is an opacity of the cornea, and although this effect often succeeds the acute inflammation, and like that in the scrofulous and purulent eye, is either partial or total, yet it frequently happens that it is accompanied with other mischief. In some cases, prominent distortions take place, in others, an absorption or bursting of the different humours, by which the eye becomes flattened. These are some of the dreadful consequences of this acute inflammation in the eye. Many others might be enumerated, but it is sufficient for our present purpose to know, that all the varieties of disease in the eye, succeeding this inflammation, are produced by its violent action on this delicate organ.

Besides these three kinds of inflammation of the eye, which I have noticed as very common, there is a variety more rarely seen, which it may be useful to notice, viz. an inflammation of this organ in adults, as well as young people, which very much resembles the purulent eye of infants. It is often met with about the age of puberty, and sometimes in middle-aged persons. One or both eyes are here also affected in different cases, and one is often attacked first, and then the other; the disease continuing afterwards in both,

This disorder is attended with a large and constant purulent discharge from the eyes, and a considerable tumefaction of the eye-lids; with great inflammation of the conjunctiva, and an acute pain in the eye, and internal parts of the cranium. The consequences of this inflammation when neglected or ill-treated, are the same as follow the more violent of the other inflammations, already described, and indeed the disease itself may only be noticed as a variety of them, and from what I have observed, it appears in many cases to be connected with a scrofulous habit. In addition to these species of inflammation in the eyes, there are many others of the acute kind, produced by various causes, such as those arising from accidents of different kinds, or from foreign bodies lodged in the eye; or from a violent deposit of inflammation in some cases of gonorrhœa, and even of gout. There are also acute and violent inflammations in the eye, arising from the immediate stimulus of the venereal poison, besides a great variety of the chronic kind, which do not come within the limits of this little essay to notice.

Having made these preliminary remarks on some of the acute inflammations of the eye, I shall proceed to their treatment. That of the purulent eye of infants comes first in order: we have already seen that the vessels of the eye,

when it is attacked by this disease, are in a state of great inflammation; in order therefore to effect a radical cure, the parts must be reduced to their natural state, for which purpose, recourse must be had to those remedies, which tend to subdue active inflammation in other parts of the body. We must employ topical bleedings, give gentle and repeated purgatives, use emollient and soothing applications to the part affected; we must apply blisters to the temples or adjacent parts of the head or neck, and keep the eyes as much as possible from the stimulus of light. In short, nature must be assisted in unloading the distended vessels; and in doing this, great attention is required in violent cases. This system must be actively pursued, in order to prevent any detriment to the sight; and as every observing practitioner knows, that this is one of those diseases, which it is difficult, and almost impossible to remove very speedily, and at the same time with perfect safety to the sight, we should be more anxious to prevent its bad effects, than by attempting a premature removal of it by the use of any violent remedy, contribute to the lasting injury of the eye. Let me stop however for a moment, to ask whether this plan be generally followed, or rather, whether a very dangerous method of cure is not, (as a long and attentive

observation has convinced me that it is,) but too commonly pursued? Too little attention is paid to the removal of the general inflammatory diathesis, and a blind confidence is placed in external applications, and those often of a very violent kind. Recourse is too frequently had to topical astringents, without paying much attention to any other plan of treatment. Indeed there are those who now use a solution of the sulphat of copper in water, or that of the acetate of lead, almost every hour in the day, and employ a syringe to introduce them within the eye-lids*. It is easy to see what will be the too frequent effect of this treatment, the purulent discharge may indeed be instantly lessened, and from thence it may be concluded that the disease is abated: under these impressions the remedy is persisted in, until at length the discharge is totally removed, and the little patient is supposed to be cured. How often however do we find, that a partial or total opacity of the cornea of one or both eyes succeeds to this treatment, or even in some cases, a prominent distortion and consequent destruction of the eye itself. These effects I have frequently known

* The very syringe itself applied so frequently, must irritate and keep up inflammation.

to follow this plan of cure, and I have no doubt but they are common effects of it in bad cases. In the milder cases indeed, it may be perhaps difficult to deprive the patient of sight by any plan of treatment, and when the disease is removed, all the credit is ascribed to the remedies which are used, and the patient may appear to be cured by them; but it should not from thence be argued that these performed the cure; it should be recollected, that if the disease had been left entirely to nature, it is highly probable that no bad effect would have followed. It is difficult however to ascertain this, as there are but few cases in which some remedy is not used. I have however seen a few, in which the disease has been left to nature, and in one instance only, a partial opacity of the cornea was left on one eye. I have seen a large number of these cases treated entirely by the evacuant plan already mentioned, and I have found that an opacity of the cornea, even of a slight and partial kind has very rarely occurred. If these circumstances be truly stated, it is scarcely necessary to determine which method of treatment is the most proper; but as this is a point of the greatest importance, I shall enter upon it, a little more fully. Allowing our former description of this disease to be correct; viz.—that it is an active inflammation of the eye, in which

all the deeper seated vessels are affected, and in a state of great excitement, and that the purulent discharge is an effect only of this state of the disease, by which the vessels are unloaded, and the bad effects of the inflammation on the structure of the eye mostly prevented; it is reasonable to suppose that if this secretion should be hastily checked or stopped by topical astringents, without at the same time lessening considerably the excited action of the myriads of minute blood vessels; some serious mischief would follow, by the inflammation exerting its ravaging influence more especially on the part secreting the discharge, and that the transparent and delicate structure of the cornea would be particularly liable to be injured; and in short, that in the worst cases, the internal parts of the eye would be seriously deranged. This may be illustrated by the treatment found successful in some other diseases. In the gonorrhœa virulenta for example, where it is known the vessels affording the purulent discharge are in excitement far beyond the secreting surface, the most mischievous effects are constantly produced by the injudicious use of astringent injections; and though the cause of the irritation of the vessels in these cases, is different from that in the purulent eye, yet serious effects may reasonably be supposed to arise in both cases by injudi-

ciously stopping the secretion. In the peripneumonia too, every sensible physician would, I apprehend, condemn the practice as dangerous, should an attempt be made suddenly to stop the secretion from the lungs, by laudanum and astringents, instead of doing it by the removal of the inflammation, by bleeding and other antiphlogistic remedies. For in this case, as in the purulent eye, the discharge will cease when the inflammation is removed. The same views and a similar practice obtain in the treatment of many other complaints, both external and internal.

Before I dismiss this part of my subject, it may be necessary to notice more minutely the plan of treatment which should be followed in the purulent eye. Let half a grain or a grain of calomel be given two or three times a week during the violence of the disease*; lessening the frequency of giving it, as the disease abates, and if this dose does not procure several evacuations from the bowels daily, as much magnesia

* My friend Dr. Sims, who has had such extensive opportunities of seeing this disease, informs me, that it is his practise to give from one to two grains of this remedy combined with five grains of rhubarb every, or every other day, and when thus treated, that he has rarely seen any mischief result from this disease.

or castor oil as will do it, especially on the intermediate days of taking the calomel should be ordered; the eyes are to be bathed frequently with milk and water, made so warm as to act as an émollient fomentation, and they should be kept continually shaded from the light. A leech must be applied to one or both temples, and repeated as the case requires; and when these evacuations have been used, if the violence of the disease continues, a blister is to be applied to the temples, or behind the ears, or on the back; these in some cases it is necessary to make perpetual for some time, by the daily use of the savin ointment spread on linen rag. If these remedies be persisted in according to the violence of the disease, a perfect cure, without any loss of sight, will mostly follow; and as this disorder in almost all cases appears to have a natural tendency to continue for some time, as has been before observed, we should not use, astringent injections, or any other violent or unnatural remedy, in order to remove it speedily, as the sight of the eye would thereby be endangered.

It will be next in order to enter on the treatment of the scrofulous inflammation of the eye. Whatever difference there may be in the causes which produce active inflammation in the eye, and however various their species, one

thing is certain, that remedies nearly of the same kind must be adopted in the treatment of all of them. They must be varied however in proportion to the degree of violence in the disease. In the inflammation we are now treating of, we must always keep in mind the scrofulous taint in the habit which produces it: of what nature that is, it is difficult perhaps to say, but it is very apparent, that it is often attended with active inflammation in different parts of the body, and among other soft parts, the tunica conjunctiva of the eye is peculiarly liable to be attacked by it. The scrofulous inflammation of the eye, though in some few cases, an obstinate and tedious disease, is in general, if judiciously managed, very easily cured; and if proper attention be afterwards paid to this disposition in the habit, its recurrence may be very often prevented. This inflammation must be treated, as I have before said, like the preceding, by which it will be found, that it may be removed with as much certainty, though not always with the same celerity, as if it proceeded from the more common causes of inflammation. In the more violent cases of this disease, the inflammation no doubt pervades the interior parts of the eye, and very probably extends even to the vessels within the cranium. This state of the parts may be supposed to exist, when

the pain is acute, and the tunica conjunctiva and all the external parts of the eye and eye-lids, are tumefied and loaded with blood ; when great restlessness and want of sleep take place, attended with much sensibility and pain on the approach of light. In such cases, our remedies must be of the active kind, and used without loss of time. These are general and topical bleedings, purging, abstinence from animal food, defence against the light, and blisters. The application of leeches to the temples, is extremely efficacious in these cases, but the number applied, the quantity of blood to be taken, and the repetition of the operation, must be always proportioned to the violence of the disease, and the age and strength of the patient. It is the custom with some to put leeches on the eye-lids, and I have even seen them applied to the reflected membrane of the conjunctiva on the under eye-lid; they are however not so serviceable when applied to these parts, as on the temple, for although the quantity of blood extracted may be supposed to unload the vessels, and abate the inflammation more effectually from the approximation to the inflamed parts, yet these effects are very much counteracted by the consequent pain and irritation from the bite, particularly when applied to the reflected membrane of the under eye-lid. From which causes,

they frequently produce an increase of inflammation. In the more violent cases of this inflammation, blood ought to be drawn freely, and even daily, from the temples, as long as the sight is endangered, and when the age of the patient admits of it, blood ought also to be taken from the arm, previous to, or alternately with the topical bleeding. This is much more powerful, and can be more depended upon for the removal of inflammation, especially of that extreme degree of it which endangers the sight, than even the application of leeches; as the quantity taken may be exactly determined, and more than can well be drawn by leeches, and by being suddenly taken, it has a quicker effect in unloading the whole sanguiferous system, where the habit is full, and general heat and fever prevail. Venesection indeed ought always to be used in addition to the leeches, in all violent cases of this kind, nor should we fail to repeat it until all danger to the sight is removed.

From the very commencement of this inflammation, the state of the bowels should be attended to; they should be instantly emptied, and many evacuations should be procured daily, regulating them according to the degree and violence of the inflammation, and the patient's strength. A dose of calomel should be given

about twice a week, and on the intermediate days, some other purgative, as magnesia, Epsom salts, or a combination of these, or other aperients. As soon as the inflammation is lessened or removed, all these remedies of course should be gradually discontinued.

It is of very great importance too in these cases, to regulate the diet, both as to quantity and quality. The simplest and lightest nourishment only should be allowed; and abstinence from animal food, even broth, or fowl or fish, strictly enjoined. But these severe restrictions are to be continued only, during the state of active and violent inflammation, and where the sight is in danger. The liquids also which the patient is to be allowed to drink, should be of the most simple kind, without any mixture whatever of beer or wine, for it is an absurd practice, to bleed and purge frequently, in order to subdue inflammation, and at the same time, to nourish and keep it up, by allowing the patient to take animal food or stimulating liquors. There are indeed many practitioners, whose custom it is to give no directions at all upon this point; what wonder then is it, if with such indulgences, joined to improper external applications, so many opaque spots are left on the cornea, and other serious mischief done to the eye. It is, in my opinion, possible to abate or

even to remove many acute inflammations, by a well regulated plan of abstinence in diet, by allowing liquid nourishment only, or the lightest farinaceous food to be introduced into the system. It is well known to every practitioner, that patients of any description, under a high state of topical inflammation, will bear these evacuations, with abstinence in diet, without being much reduced by them, as long as the violence of the inflammation exists. And it is not less certain, that if used after this period, considerable debility will be produced.

By the treatment here recommended, and properly pursued, by far the greater number of scrofulous inflammations of the eye will be removed in a short time. In many cases in a few days, and in most of them, in a fortnight or three weeks, and that without any injury being done to the sight. In addition to these remedies for the cure of scrofulous inflammation in the eyes, we must in every case advise the use of warm fomentations to the parts affected. These may be either warm milk and water, or a decoction of poppy heads in water. My practice however has been almost invariably to use the former, and from the success which has so constantly attended it, I have rarely had occasion to have recourse to the latter. They should be used five or six times a day or oftener, and for

four or five minutes each time. The liquid should be made as warm as can be comfortably borne to the skin, and applied with a soft linen rag, or fine flannel, large enough to extend over part of the forehead and cheek, and it should be dipped again and again in the warm liquor, as often as the cloth becomes too cold. It is necessary also in every case of inflammation, whatever may be the cause of it, to wear a shade over the eyes, to prevent the irritation caused by the light. This should never be omitted, even in slight cases of inflammation and in these, moderate exercise may be allowed; but in cases of very acute inflammations, attended with much pain, and where the loss of sight is threatened, it is absolutely necessary to keep the patient altogether in a darkened room, till that danger is over; during this period, the shade may for the most part be dispensed with. And here I cannot but express my surprise, that a celebrated oculist, now living, should in most, if not all cases of inflammations of the eye, *entirely* prohibit the use of a shade, even when his patients go abroad.

Before I leave this part of my subject, it will be proper to say a few words on a practice which is extremely general, of using topical astringent applications, or laudanum, and similar remedies in the treatment of inflammations

of the eye ; patients afflicted with these complaints, very properly in general apply to professional men eminent in this department of surgery, whose experience and frequent opportunities of seeing these cases, may well be supposed to render them particularly expert in the treatment. Yet even in their plan, a great error has crept in. It is the invariable practice with most of them to use topical applications in almost every species of inflammation of the eye ; either in the form of an astringent lotion used three or four times a day, or of drops or ointment introduced within the eye-lids. I have noticed the effect of these remedies in a great number of cases which have come under my own observation, and I have almost invariably found, that they give pain, sometimes to an extreme degree, and that they increase and keep up the inflammation, and protract the disease very much beyond the natural time of its continuance ; many patients thus treated, instead of having their disorders removed without injury to vision, which is usually effected by the common antiphlogistic plan of cure, are at length dismissed with opacities of various sizes on the cornea, and many also with even the total loss of sight in one or both eyes. A large number of cases in which such terminations have followed the above practice, has come under my

notice. I have also seen with surprise, that too frequently very little attention has been paid to the use of any other remedy, and that very few even of adults have been ordered to lose blood from the arm; leeches have indeed been often directed, but they have neither been so frequently repeated, nor applied in such numbers, as to lead us to hope for that benefit which might be derived from them. I have observed too, that frequently little attention was paid to diet, though certainly more to the procuring evacuation from the bowels. The effect of such practice, as might have been expected, has been often dreadful. The greater number of those who have come under my own inspection with the loss of sight, had been treated upon this plan, and were a minute investigation made of those who now occupy our asylums for the blind, it is my firm belief, that large numbers would be found who have been thus treated. Yet still this practice, I am informed, is very general, even among regular practitioners; and one in particular, is said, at this time, to order the very numerous patients who apply, one by one, into his presence; when he applies some strong application to the eye, with little previous inspection of the disease, or enquiry into the different causes which may have produced it in different cases. A lotion is then given them to use three

or four times a day, on the intermediate days. Both these applications are represented by those who have informed me, for the most part, to have given much pain. This plan of treatment is repeated three or four days a week. It is easy therefore, to foresee what must be the result of such practice. There is one external application however, which has been in much use in these cases, among practitioners for many years, but which appears to have been publicly discarded by the very gentleman who was among the first to bring it into use. I mean laudanum.* Now, as laudanum, which is one of the most innocent of the external remedies now in use, has fallen into discredit, all the others should be dismissed; a rational plan of treatment will then take place, and none but quacks will administer

* A paragraph was inserted in the public papers three or four years ago, I think it was in Baldwin's Weekly Journal that I saw it, announcing that a Gentleman of high respectability and character, who had first introduced the use of Laudanum in Ophthalmia, had, from a sense of its dangerous qualities, discontinued it, and had esteemed it his duty publicly to declare this to the world. This paragraph I have every reason to believe was inserted at the request of the late Mr. Ware. It is much to be wished that practitioners in general would so honourably avow their errors, when their long experience may have matured their judgment, that others may not fall into the same.

their nostrums, and insult the public with their account of thousands restored to sight.

Although the greater number of scrofulous inflammations of the eye, may be cured in a short time by the method I have related, and that without any injury to the sight, yet this is not always the case. Out of a large number of these cases, some few will be found extremely obstinate, and difficult of cure ; but as far as I can judge, the peculiar obstinacy of the complaint arises from the scrofulous taint in the habit. It is proper therefore from the very commencement of the inflammation, to keep in mind the existence of a scrofulous habit ; for, although many cases of scrofulous inflammation will yield to the remedies proper for phlegmonic inflammation, yet, on the other hand, there are cases that will not give way to those remedies, and here, the remedies adapted to a scrofulous habit must be had recourse to, though there be no symptoms of scrofula to be observed. The disease is now become, as it were, chronic, and requires a plan of treatment somewhat different. In these cases, great benefit will be derived from taking daily suitable doses of the cinchona, conium, subcarbonate of soda, and subcarbonate of ammonia, administering also, about once a week, a gentle dose of calomel. Any of the above remedies may be taken, either

separately, or conjointly, as they may seem best to answer the purpose. It is also often serviceable in these cases, to bathe the eyes three or four times a day with cold water, and to bind on them a double rag made wet with it; and occasionally, the application of a cold, mild astringent, and sedative collyrium, three or four times a day, is very useful. For example, a single grain of calamine, and the same of sulphate of zinc to an ounce of water. By pursuing, however, the plan of treatment previously described, in the treatment of scrofulous inflammation of the eye, I have not had occasion to apply even this external application, in one case out of twenty in all that I have seen. An immediate amendment will very often be produced in obstinate cases, by removing the patient out of London into a purer air, and particularly near the sea, where sea bathing may be used. A seton in the neck, and blisters made perpetual, are also serviceable in some obstinate cases, after the other evacuations.

Before I conclude this part of my subject, I wish to make a few remarks on the treatment of opacities of the cornea. It is clear to me, that in almost every case in which an opacity of the cornea remains after the removal of inflammation in the eye, it is the best practice, not to apply any violent escharotic to it. As the opa-

city is an effect of inflammation, it will always lessen when this is totally removed ; the minute blood vessels which supply it with red blood, will by degrees contract, and be at length obliterated, and much of the opaque matter will in time become absorbed, and restore the natural and beautiful transparency of the cornea. Our aim therefore should be, totally to remove the remaining inflammation by the above plan of treatment ; nature will then be left at liberty to act in removing its effects. After this, if any part of the opaque cornea be supplied with vessels evidently carrying red blood, it will undoubtedly be proper, to divide them by a simple incision with a lancet or knife, and to repeat the operation, until these vessels disappear : but it is a dangerous practice, to perform any other operation to the opaque part, or to use caustic of any kind, powder of sugar, or any strong and irritating collyrium, under the idea of destroying the opacity, as many instances have come under my observation, in which a tolerably perfect sight has been completely destroyed, by attempting to remove opacities of the cornea by such means. For when escharotics are used under the false notion of destroying the opacity, it very often happens that the inflammation is renewed, and the opacity thereby increased, instead of being removed. Or, if in some slight cases, it

should appear in the course of time, that the opacity is removed, or lessened, when the inflammation excited by these remedies is gone, by their being discontinued; we may attribute this with much more propriety to the efforts of nature, than to the effects of the remedy. Another plan of removing opacities of the cornea is by internal medicine, and external applications of an alterative kind. It is not easy to conceive how these can have much effect on this disease, farther than what arises from the removing any remaining inflammation. There can be no objection, however, to a fair trial of any such remedies, which may be supposed to have an effect in producing an absorption of the opaque matter, such as a solution of the oxymuriate of mercury in water, taken internally, and used outwardly as a wash; but great care should be taken that this preparation be not used in the latter way, until the inflammation is entirely removed, and that it be not so strong as to excite fresh inflammation. All these remarks are applicable to the treatment of opacities of the cornea, produced by all the different species of inflammations of the eye.

We now come to the treatment of the acute inflammation in the eyes of adults; we have already seen the rapidity with which this disease frequently proceeds, and the short space of time

in which the worst cases will irrecoverably destroy the sight, by the destruction of the organic structure of the eye, from the excess of phlegmonic inflammation. From this statement, it is not difficult to discern the remedies which are likely to remove the disease in the most speedy manner, and at the same time to prevent the dreadful termination in the total loss of sight. We ought evidently in this case to lose no time in removing the dangerous excess of inflammation. To effect this, taking blood from the arm, is the most safe and efficacious remedy, and we ought therefore to have immediate recourse to it. The quantity to be taken, must of course be proportioned to the violence of the disease, the length of time it has continued, the age, habit of body, and strength of the patient. This most efficacious remedy, with the few others already recommended for the removal of scrofulous inflammation, will be sufficient to reduce the violence of the disease, and the repetition of it, according to the urgency of the symptoms, will very rarely fail to save the eye from destruction. In those cases indeed, in which there appears to be no urgent necessity, it must be improper to take away the vital fluid from the system in large quantities ; but, in cases demanding the most prompt relief, we ought not to be afraid of using the lancet freely. The vein should be opened freely, and the quantity of

blood intended to be drawn, should be taken as promptly as possible, by which the inflamed vessels will be unloaded more speedily, and in the end with less loss of blood. If the disease be extremely violent, the pain very acute, continuing night and day, so as to prevent the patient from sleeping; and the external tumefaction great, and the patient should see objects very indistinctly when the eye-lids can be lifted up, a considerable quantity of blood should be immediately taken from the arm. From sixteen to twenty-four or even in some cases to thirty ounces or more, will not be too much, unless a syncope should intervene, in which case the arm should be immediately tied up, and the patient placed in a recumbent posture. It is a well known fact, the truth of which has been confirmed in every case that has fallen under my observation, that when the patient faints with the loss of blood, the operation is attended with the best effect, although the quantity drawn may be much less. For when a syncope, or even a tendency to it comes on, the action of the whole sanguiferous system at the time, either ceases or is much diminished, and when the circulation is restored, it is singularly weakened for some time afterwards. The inflamed vessels of the eye partake of course of this effect, and even where only a slight syncope has followed, I have repeatedly

seen the pain instantly removed, and the external tumefaction, as well as the violent inflammation of the conjunctiva, immediately lessened.* This has often suggested to me the propriety and even the necessity of endeavouring to produce this effect in all violent cases of this disease. If the patient be bled while seated in a chair, or sitting up in bed instead of lying down, and the blood be drawn from a large orifice, a faintness will often supervene by the time the intended quantity of blood is taken away; and if it does not ensue so soon, and the case be very urgent, some addition to this quantity may very safely be taken. Every experienced practitioner will be able to judge of the additional quantity to be taken away. The state and countenance of the patient must be watched, and the moment the least symptom of a syncope is perceptible, the arm must be tied up, and the patient placed in a recumbent posture, which has more effect in restoring the weakened action of the heart, than any other remedy. Volatile stimulants may however be applied to the nostrils, or given inwardly

* In two or three cases of strangulated Hernia, I have reduced the intestine within the cavity of the abdomen, by taking immediate advantage of a syncope produced by opening a vein in the arm. In these cases, all the previous attempts I had made, were ineffectual.

in cases which require it, in order to prevent any unnecessary alarm. After an evacuation of blood in this way, in urgent cases, the bowels should be opened immediately by giving a dose of calomel, and following it by repeated doses of an infusion of senna, sulphate of magnesia, and soluble tartar, which answers this purpose extremely well, and ought to be continued till five or six evacuations are procured. The patient should be kept in a dark room, and lie occasionally on the bed, or a sofa; and in this stage of the disease, should be allowed very little nourishment of any kind, and his drink should be watery liquids only. The eye and parts around, should be frequently fomented with warm milk and water, or a decoction of poppy heads, as directed in the treatment of scrofulous inflammation; and where there is much external tumefaction, a soft emollient poultice of bread and milk with oil, or sweet hog's-lard, should be applied over the eyes, enclosed within two pieces of very soft and fine linen rag, and frequently renewed. These are the first steps that should be taken in every violent attack of this acute inflammation of the eye. If after this, the pain and inflammation should be very considerably lessened, and it shall clearly appear that the sight is no longer in danger, it will be only necessary to repeat the purgative in a gentle

manner daily, and to order a continuance of the low diet, until the disease be removed. It rarely happens however that this complaint goes off so speedily, on the contrary, it is very apt to continue with great violence for some days, or even for a week or a fortnight. If therefore, notwithstanding the first copious bleeding, the pain in the eye should continue or return with great violence, with a hard strong pulse, high fever, and want of natural sleep, it will be absolutely necessary to take more blood from the arm, and in very urgent cases, to repeat it, even more than once in a day, but this is not often necessary. Many cases however will occur, where blood must be drawn daily, and others, where once in two or three days will be requisite; the quantity being always proportioned to the violence of the symptoms, and the patient's strength. In all these cases, leeches should be applied to the temples in the intervals between taking blood from the arm; the number to be used, should here also be proportioned to the violence of the disease, and the degree of danger to the sight; and when bleeding from the arm may be no longer necessary, leeches may be employed, and repeated, as long as they may be required.

In the treatment of this complaint by large evacuations of blood from the arm, I would encourage the timid practitioner not to be afraid

of the quantity, where the symptoms are urgent. In curing any disease, it is of the highest importance to know correctly the nature of it. In many internal complaints, it is not possible to discover whether the disease is purely inflammatory, nor can the extent to which it exists, be always clearly ascertained. In the true peripneumony and pleurisy indeed, a physician of judgment and experience, will determine this point with great correctness, but it must be evident there are many other complaints, in which it is more difficult to gain a true knowledge of the disease ; of course, remedies the most powerful and best suited to its removal, may not always be so vigorously pursued, as if the nature of it had been more accurately determined. But as this is not the case in the disease of which we are now treating, the practitioner need not be afraid of using the lancet. The only bad consequence that can possibly ensue from the loss of blood in these cases, is a little reduction of the strength, which is easily removed when the disease is cured ; but this cannot be supposed to bear any comparison with the loss of sight, which can never be repaired. Besides, it should always be remembered, that while inflammatory diseases exist, for which bleeding is proper, the loss of strength which follows the operation, is not in the same proportion as if blood had

been taken from a person in a sound state of health. On the contrary, by the removal of disease, and the prevention of serious local mischief to the body, the strength will often be increased, and not lessened; and even in thin habits, where the symptoms run high, we ought not to be deterred from taking away blood in proper quantity, as these persons are generally stronger and bear bleeding better than fat persons. I have seen people of this description lose an eye in two or three days from the violence of the inflammation, where these methods have not been practised.

In thus recommending large bleedings from the arm so strongly, I beg not to be misunderstood; it is not my wish to detract in the least from the utility of topical bleedings: no one can have a higher opinion of their utility, and of the advantage to be derived from them in these and many other inflammatory affections than I have; and in all obstinate cases of this kind, it is my constant practice to advise them. But where the sight is endangered, bleeding from the arm should not be neglected, or postponed from a fearfulness of taking blood in this way, or from an impression that a sufficient quantity may be taken from the temples by leeches. For where the general inflammatory diethesis is great, topical bleedings are quite

insufficient, and recourse must be had to general blood-letting; for in these cases, it being absolutely necessary to take away a large quantity of blood speedily, the neglect of it can by no means be supplied by the application of leeches; for I believe it will be generally admitted, that in cases of very high inflammation, much greater advantage is obtained by a quantity of blood taken suddenly from a vein, than even from a larger quantity taken slowly by leeches. The latter mode indeed has advantages over the former, from the blood being taken from the vicinity of the inflamed vessels, but, as blood cannot be drawn by leeches in sufficient quantity, or with the desired quickness, this mode in very urgent cases, can never supersede the necessity of taking blood from the arm.

There is still another mode of bleeding in these and other cases, which it is proper to notice, viz. that of opening the temporal artery. From the nearness of the temporal artery to the eye, some advantages may certainly be derived from its use, especially as the quantity required may often be obtained by this method; there are however objections to its general practice, which I fear will never be surmounted. It is not every practitioner that likes to open the temporal artery, partly from its being so rarely practised, and partly from a supposed difficulty

in stopping the blood, and a fear of its bleeding again when stopped ; and the state and appearance of the blood drawn in this way, whether buffy or not, cannot be so nicely ascertained as by blood taken from the arm, nor can the quantity taken be so correctly managed. Besides, skilful surgeons who can open the temporal artery, are not always to be met with ; whereas there are many ignorant men to be found almost every where, who can take blood from the arm with great safety. From much experience I can safely affirm, that opening a vein in the arm answers as well, and for the above reasons, will probably be ever practised, in preference to dividing the temporal artery.

In addition to these methods of taking blood near to the eye, that of opening the vein by the side of the nose may sometimes be advantageously employed ; but where it is absolutely necessary to take away a large quantity of blood from the system, this method also should only be practised upon the same plan as that of applying the leeches. In the acute inflammation of the eyes of adults, as in that arising from scrofula, blisters are sometimes serviceable after the use of evacuations, but we must not trust to this remedy, to the neglect of bleeding and purging, as they will certainly not prevent the impending danger of the loss of sight.

In every case of these acute inflammations of the eye, from its commencement to the time of its entire removal, it is impossible for me not to condemn entirely the use of stimulating and astringent applications to the eyes. Instead of these, we should always advise the use of emollient fomentations, and sometimes of poultices, in the manner already mentioned. Astringent topical applications, are if possible more dangerous and destructive to the sight, in these cases, than in the purulent inflammation of infants, or in the scrofulous inflammation. Having observed very many instances of their very destructive effects, I cannot but think that they should be entirely banished from practice. The little operations too, of drawing blood from the eye by lancing the tunica conjunctiva on the ball of the eye, or where it is reflected on the eyelids, or by the application of a leech to this latter part, cause more mischief by the irritation they occasion, than any benefit from the trifling quantity of blood taken away. This practice should therefore be laid aside, as already expressed in a preceding part of this essay.

I shall now offer a few remarks on the treatment of the purulent inflammation of the eye already described as a variety of the more common inflammations. This complaint attacks persons of all ages, but it is more common in

young people, from the age of five or six to that of thirty, than in those further advanced in life, and I have seen some cases of it, particularly in young people a little before the age of puberty, where it has been uncommonly obstinate and of difficult cure. The treatment of this inflammation should be similar to that of the acute inflammation of adults. From what I have observed, the danger of losing the sight in violent cases of this complaint appears to be as great as in the latter disease ; bleeding therefore both general and topical, purgatives, abstinence in diet, exclusion from the light, and warm topical fomentations, are all to be used according to the urgency of the complaint ; and in this case too, I consider the application to the eye of any topical astringent, whether in the form of eye-wash, or ointment, as extremely fatal to the sight, and the most dangerous practice that can be followed.

In all these different species of inflammation, I have taken no notice of the use of opium internally, as I have rarely had occasion to use it. It is certainly very improper at the commencement of the complaint, as the violence of the pain in that stage of it, should always be appeased by the evacuations, and other remedies already pointed out. These only have the power of subduing the inflammation, from whence the

pain arises. If however in the progress of the cure, and after the use of evacuations, the pain continues, it may be sometimes advisable to give opium in the evening to allay irritation and pain, and procure rest, taking care at the same time to keep the bowels constantly free by the use of purgatives.

In addition to these different species of inflammation of the eye, there are no doubt others, which arise from causes different from those already described. In short, as in most other complaints, there is much variety in them, but as it does not come within the plan of this essay, to notice every variety of these diseases, I shall only observe, that in every case of inflammation of this organ, we must endeavour to find out the cause from whence it proceeds. If from sudden exposure to cold, or any cause of that kind, the remedies already pointed out, will be perfectly sufficient to remove it. If from any foreign body lodged in the eye, it is evident that that must be removed, subduing at the same time by the aforesaid remedies, the inflammation excited by it. If from the venereal poison in a habit tainted by the lues, of which I have seen many instances, where the inflammation appeared as common inflammation, no remedy with which we are yet acquainted will cure it, but that of mercury taken internally, or used

in friction. Others indeed may check and keep under the inflammation, but beyond this their influence will not extend; as soon however as mercury is introduced into the system in proper quantity, this inflammation will give way and be radically cured without the use of any other remedy. If from gout, the remedies used in the treatment of that complaint must be observed.

I shall now proceed to illustrate these remarks by a few cases of these different species of inflammation of the eye, many of which are given chiefly to shew the great effect of phlebotomy. Some are not so full as might be wished; this must be attributed to the haste, with which I was unavoidably obliged to draw them up. Others also are subjoined as instances of the dangerous practice of using topical remedies in these diseases.

I shall also insert the formula of a citrine ointment of a proper consistence and degree of strength, for a complaint in the eye-lids, which is very common particularly in children; it is a disease of the little ciliary glands on the edge of the eye-lids, which are sore and inflamed, and secrete a diseased kind of pus, by which the eye-lids are gummed together in a morning. It is sometimes attended with a slight inflammation of the eyes, but this is not often

sufficient to prevent the use of the ointment. The quantity of about a pin's head should be rubbed every night, or in some cases night and morning, on the edge of the eye-lids. The complaint is often removed by it in a few days, and in all these cases it is a most valuable remedy. I generally advise a dose or two of calomel to be taken during its use. This recipe was given me many years since, by my late and highly esteemed friend, the Reverend Mr. Clare of Hoxton. An ointment somewhat similar to it, is sold as a nostrum, under the name of the golden ointment. I fear it is often indiscriminately used by irregular practitioners, in almost all inflammations of the eyes, and too frequently also by some regular practitioners, by which much injury is often done to the eyes.

Formula of the Citrine Ointment.

Take of fresh butter eight ounces,
Olive oil two ounces by measure,
Quicksilver, one ounce,
Aqua fortis, one ounce by weight,
Camphor, two drams.

Dissolve the quicksilver in the aqua fortis, dissolve likewise the camphor in the olive oil, and whilst the former is yet hot, mix both of them with the fresh butter previously melted, but beginning to concrete by being exposed to the air.

CASES
OF
PURULENT INFLAMMATION
IN THE
EYES OF INFANTS.

CASE I.

AN infant in perfect health, was attacked on the second day after birth, with an inflammation in both eyes, attended with a considerable swelling of the eye-lids, and a large discharge of a purulent fluid. No external application was used to the eyes, nor was any internal remedy given. The disease continued for two months in this state, without having any means employed for its relief, after which, a few gentle doses of calomel were given, which soon removed it. No opacity was left on the cornea of either eye.

CASE II.

An infant, on the third day after birth, was attacked with a purulent inflammation of the eye attended with the usual symptoms. Eye

washes were used from the commencement of the attack, and were continued for seven weeks; but no other remedy was ordered. After this period, the inflammation was removed, and the eyes could be inspected. Very large, thick, and incurable opacities had formed nearly over the whole of the cornea of each eye, so that the child was deprived of sight, and must continue so for ever.

CASE III.

An infant was attacked with this inflammation, attended with a large purulent discharge, on the fourth day after birth. The complaint lasted five weeks, during which time the eyes were closed and could not be readily inspected. An eye wash was used during nearly the whole of this time; after which a considerable opacity was found on the cornea of one eye.

CASE IV.

An infant was attacked with this inflammation and a purulent discharge on the fourth day after birth, which continued for five or six weeks. No remedies of any kind were used at the commencement of the complaint. At the close of it, brandy and water was used frequently as an eye wash. When the disease was removed, a considerable opacity was found

on the cornea of one eye, attended with an irregularity in the shape of the eye.

CASE V.

An infant was attacked with this inflammation and a purulent discharge on the third day after birth, which continued for seven weeks. Eye washes were used during the whole of this period. I saw the child when seven months old, and on inspecting the eyes, found a white and thick opacity over three parts of the cornea of each eye, the central parts opposite to the pupil, being the most opaque. I judged it impossible to remove these opacities, as they seemed to extend through the whole substance of the cornea.

CASE VI.

A child was attacked with this inflammation and discharge, attended with the usual symptoms, the day after it was born. The disease had continued a month when I saw it, and no application, or remedy had been used. As I did not see the child afterwards, the result is not known.

CASE VII.

An infant was attacked with this inflammation and discharge the day after it was born. At the

end of three months, the complaint existed to a considerable degree, discharging pus ; it was however abated in its violence, but the skin externally, around the eye-lids, was excoriated by the acrid matter and the want of cleanliness. No remedy whatever had been used during the whole of this time, except milk and water to the eye occasionally. In two or three weeks more, the complaint ceased, but no opacity was formed on the cornea of either of the eyes, and the sight appeared to be perfect.

CASE VIII.

An infant was attacked with this inflammation on the eighth day after birth, and it continued near three months. An eye wash was used three or four times a day, during the whole of this period. It checked the discharge, but did not remove the complaint. No physic or other remedy was ordered. The disease now soon ceased, and the eyes could be inspected. An opacity was formed over the whole of the cornea of both eyes.

CASE IX.

An infant was attacked on the seventh day after birth with this inflammation. The disease continued for three weeks without any means being used to remove it. At this period, Gou-

lard water was used three or four times a day. In a fortnight from this time, the inflammation, swelling and discharge, were so far removed, that the eyes could be opened and inspected; In short, the disease appeared to be removed, but a very large opacity was formed over the cornea of both eyes, one of which was prominent and distorted. She appeared totally blind with both eyes.

CASE X.

Began at three weeks after birth. No further particulars known.

CASE XI.

Began in seven days after birth. No further particulars known.

CASE XII.

A child was attacked with a purulent inflammation of the eye a week after its birth. The swelling of the eye-lids, purulent discharge, and inflammation, had continued two months, during which time no remedies were used for it. The child was then ordered two gentle doses of calomel a week. At the end of ten days from the commencement of this process, the disease was nearly removed. At this time the eye-lids could be opened, which could not be done before, on

account of the swelling. No opacity was formed on the cornea of either eye, nor was any injury done to the sight.

CASE XIII.

An infant was attacked with a purulent inflammation in both eyes, on the fifth day after it was born, the eye-lids were much swelled, and a large quantity of matter was discharged. A fortnight after the attack, the child was taken to a surgeon, who ordered an eye wash to be used thrice a day, which gave much pain. No physic, leeches, or blisters were ordered. This plan was continued for six weeks, and as the child was no better, it was taken to an eminent oculist, who gave no hopes of recovering the sight of either of the eyes. An eye wash was however squirted into the eyes thrice a week, and another sort was ordered to be used at home thrice a day. The former gave great pain. Some physic and a blister were also ordered. In two or three weeks after the use of these remedies, the inflammation and swelling were abated. I saw this child when it was one year and three-quarters old. The right eye was prominent and distorted, having the cornea opaque and the sight quite gone. The left eye had a large speck, or opaque spot on the cornea, but it was not opposite to the pupil.

CASE XIV.

An infant was attacked the third day after it was born, with a swelling of the upper and under eye-lids of the left eye, as large as half a pigeon's egg, attended with great inflammation of the tunica conjunctiva. The day following there was a large discharge of purulent matter from the eye. The swelling and discharge continued nearly in the same state for a week. The right eye was then attacked in the same manner, and discharged pus the first day of the attack. The swelling quitted the left eye, soon after the attack of swelling and inflammation on the right eye. The swelling of the eye-lids of this eye also continued violent for a week, and then abated. The disease continued afterwards six weeks, during which time the parents had no advice, but used milk and water only to the eyes, and gave the child five or six doses of magnesia. At this period I saw the child for the first time, and found the disease so much abated, that the eyes could be opened. The cornea was perfectly transparent, and the sight evidently perfect in both eyes. Two or three gentle doses of calomel entirely removed the disease.

CASE XV.

An infant was attacked with the purulent inflammation in both eyes on the seventh day after

it was born. After it had continued three weeks, the mother took the child to one of the most eminent oculists in town, who ordered a Goulard wash to be used three or four times a day, leaving the strength of it to the apothecary. The discharge was large when this application was first used, after that, it gradually ceased, and in a fortnight the eyes could be opened, but before that they were closed by the swelling. On inspecting the eyes, a very large and thick opacity was found to extend over the whole of the cornea of both eyes, and one of them was distorted and prominent. The child was totally blind. Neither leeches nor internal medicine had been ordered.

CASE XVI.

An infant was attacked in the year 1800 with the purulent inflammation of both eyes on the eighth day after it was born. The swelling of both eye-lids was very considerable, and the discharge of matter great. One drop of a liquid was applied thrice a week by an eminent oculist. A vitriolic liquid was also ordered to be syringed into each eye four or five times a day. No internal medicine, or leeches or blisters were ordered. After these remedies had been used for three or four weeks, the child was brought for my inspection. A thick and incurable opacity was found to extend over the whole of the cor-

nea of each eye, and the sight of both was totally lost.

CASE XVII.

An infant, when a week old, was attacked with a purulent eye, attended with a considerable swelling of both eye-lids. The mother did not apply to any one for advice, but of her own accord applied brandy and water to the eyes, and used no other remedy. When the inflammation was removed, and the discharge had ceased, an opacity was left on the cornea of one eye.

CASE XVIII.

A child, near four months old, in December, 1818, had an eruption on both cheeks, from a little below the eyes to the chin. This was attended with inflammation and a cracking of the skin, with a brown incrustation. The mother applied to a gentleman, who ordered an ointment to be applied to the parts, and over that a poultice, by which, with the assistance of a dose or two of calomel, the disease was much mended. In a month afterwards, owing to the convenience of a shorter distance, she took the child to another gentleman, who ordered a lotion to be applied to the cheeks. The eyes were perfectly sound and uninflamed, but there was a little

redness and a gumming of the under eye-lid of one eye, for this, a small quantity of a green ointment was ordered to be rubbed on the part thrice a day, and a rag wetted with the wash was directed to be applied to both eyes frequently, as well as to the cheeks. This was done for one day only. In twelve hours after the application of the lotion and ointment, both eyes became inflamed, and the eye-lids much swelled, so that the eyes could not be opened; and they discharged a purulent matter in large quantity. Some physic was now ordered, and the lotion and ointment discontinued. In a week afterwards, a thick opacity was seen over the whole of the cornea of the left eye, and the gentleman under whose care she was, declared that the child was incurably blind on that eye. In the other eye there appeared to be some hopes of preventing an opacity from forming. Both eyes however were still highly inflamed, and the lids much swelled, discharging a considerable quantity of purulent matter. The disease continued in this state for three weeks; every effort was made to stop the progress of the disease, by leeches, calomel and other purgatives, &c. &c. All however was ineffectual. A very considerable opacity was formed over the whole of the cornea of the other eye also. It was very thick in its

center opposite the pupil, but on some part of the edges, hopes were entertained that the opaque part might get absorbed, when the inflammation was totally removed. In about five weeks from this attack, all inflammation was removed, and the child opened its eyes freely, even in the light. The left eye was incurably blind, having not only a thick opacity over the whole of the cornea, but it was irregularly distorted. The cornea of the right eye also was in a very bad state, being very opaque opposite to the pupil. It had however become a little more transparent on one side of its edge, but it appears very doubtful to me whether, even in the course of time, it will be sufficiently transparent to admit the rays of light to the retina.

N.B. A very small quantity of matter began to run from this child's eyes in five or six days after it was born, but the eyes were not inflamed, nor were the eye-lids swelled. This small discharge continued till the cheeks became bad, nor did any alteration take place till the ointment and eye-wash were applied to the eyes.

CASE XIX.

A child, born in the country, was seized with a swelling and inflammation on both eyes the same day on which it was born, attended with a

considerable discharge of purulent matter. Application was made on the fourth day to a surgeon, who injected an eye wash into the eyes twice a day, which appeared to give pain. This was continued for a week. Finding the child no better, the Citrine Ointment was ordered to be applied every night, and the syringe only once a day. This was continued for about a fortnight longer. The child being then no better, was brought to town by its parents, and placed under the care of one of the most eminent oculists, who ordered some drops to be applied to the eyes daily, and an ointment every night. This plan was continued for some weeks without any effect. Neither of these gentlemen ordered leeches, blisters, purgatives or any other remedy than what I have mentioned. At the end of six weeks, the swelling of the eyelids abated, as well as the discharge, and the former could now be opened to inspect the state of the eyes. When this was done, both eyes appeared flattened, and a considerable opacity was formed over them. The subject of the above relation is now twenty-one years old. I took the above particulars of his case, in the year 1818, from his mother—at the same time, I had the opportunity of inspecting the *present* state of the young man's eyes. He is totally blind, and

has been so from his infancy. His eyes are also greatly disfigured. The right eye is twice its natural size, and prominent, with a thick opaque skin over the whole of the cornea ; and the left eye is sunk in the socket, having apparently burst, and is not above half its natural size. This also has the same thick opacity over the whole of the cornea as the other.

N. B. Several of the above cases are inserted in order to mark more correctly the period at which, this disease usually commences.

CASES
OF
SCROFULOUS INFLAMMATION
OF
THE EYES.

CASE XX.

A Boy, seven months old, of a scrofulous habit, was attacked in April 1801, with the small-pox, from which he recovered. Some inflammation however was left in both eyes at the end of three weeks from his recovery. This was so considerable, as to induce the parents to take the child to an eminent oculist, who ordered one drop of a liquid to be applied to the eye thrice a day, and in addition to this, a wash to be used every hour throughout the day. Besides these applications, they were ordered to wash the eyes every two hours with a rag dipped in wine. No remedies were given inwardly, nor were leeches applied, but the mother who suckled the child, was ordered to live well. The child was seen thrice a week for a month, and the same plan was continued without any variation. After this, all these remedies were discontinued. Ten

months afterwards I saw the child, and found it was quite blind. The cornea of both eyes were not only incurably opaque, but distorted and prominent.

CASE XXI.

A girl, eighteen months old, was attacked in March 1809, with an inflammation on the right eye, attended with a fulness and swelling of the eye-lids. A fortnight elapsed without having any advice for it. A lotion was then used five or six times a day for a week, without any regular advice. The child however was no better. Application was then made to an eminent oculist, who applied drops to the eye about thrice a week, which sometimes gave pain. She was also ordered to use a lotion several times a day. A purgative mixture was also given every morning. This plan was continued for a month, at which time, the inflammation of the eye, with the swelling of the lids, were worse than before. At this time I saw her. By leaving off the external applications, and by taking a dose or two of calomel, and bathing the eyes frequently with warm milk and water, the child was nearly well in five days.

CASE XXII.

A girl, aged nine years, was attacked with a scrofulous inflammation in both eyes. She ap-

plied to a gentleman at Portsmouth, who applied an ointment to them twice a day, with a brush, which gave much pain ; powders were ordered internally, which purged her every day. No particular diet was directed, nor were leeches, or bleeding, or any other remedy enjoined. By a continuance of this plan for a fortnight, she became almost totally blind. An incurable opacity had formed over the whole of the cornea of the right eye, and one nearly as bad over that of the left eye, excepting a little space at its upper part, where there was a small observable transparency, through which she was enabled to see a little, and that with difficulty. Some years afterwards, an oculist of the first respectability, dropped a green drop into this eye twice a day, hoping I suppose to destroy some of the opacity. The pain produced by it was excessive, and a considerable inflammation was excited, which obliged him to desist from its use. Had this application been continued, it is probable she would have lost the little remains of sight she had. She applied afterwards, to another gentleman, who once scarified some vessels leading to the opaque cornea, which seemed to do some good. I saw this girl nine years after she was first attacked with this complaint, and found the opacity in both eyes, much in the same state as it was left at first,

CASE XXIII.

A boy, aged six years, was attacked in the year 1815, with a considerable inflammation of the left eye, which appeared to be of the scrofulous kind. His friends applied to a surgeon, who ordered an eye wash to be used twice a day, which gave him much pain. Some powders were also ordered to be taken internally, which kept his body open. He was told neither to eat meat, nor to drink beer, but neither leeches nor blisters were ordered. He continued this application to the eye for eight months, during which time he could not open his eye, or bear the light. After this, the inflammation abated, and he could open the eye. At this time I saw him. An incurable opacity had formed over the whole of the cornea, and the sight was totally gone.

CASE XXIV.

A boy, five years old, having a small opacity on the cornea of one eye opposite to the pupil, which was left by using lotions when he was an infant, was attacked in the year 1815, with a slight inflammation on that eye of a scrofulous appearance. The mother consulted an eminent oculist, who applied something to the eye thrice a week, and ordered a lotion to be used thrice a day, both of these applications gave him pain. This method was followed for three months,

during which time no other remedies were ordered; at the end of this period, the complaint remained nearly in the same state. The mother then took the child to another eminent oculist, who applied something to the eye thrice a week, and ordered a powder to make an eye wash, and some powders to be taken internally; these were used for four months, during which time no other remedy was advised. At the end of this period, the child was no better. The mother then consulted another practitioner, who ordered a wash only, without any other remedy, this was used for six months, and was attended with much pain at each application. At this period the opacity on the cornea opposite to the pupil was much worse, and the inflammation unaltered. A considerable inflammation now appeared on the left eye, produced apparently by the long continued and painful application to the right eye. The collyriums were now left off, and the child had no further advice, but the mother applied a leech to one temple. In three weeks all inflammation was nearly gone in both eyes, but the opacity on the cornea, opposite to the pupil of the right eye, was much increased, and nearly the whole of the cornea of the left eye had a cloudy appearance, left by the preceding inflammation. I saw the disease in this state for the first time, and was persuaded that

the cloudy appearance on the cornea of the left eye, would disappear in the course of a short time without using any remedy. I have since seen the child, and find that it is entirely removed, but the opacity of the cornea of the right eye remains unaltered.

CASE XXV.

A man aged thirty-eight, was attacked in the year 1817, with an inflammation in both eyes. He applied to a surgeon who ordered leeches repeatedly, and gave him physic for two months. These gave him ease, but as the inflammation continued, he went into a public institution, where he took bark, and used an eye-wash nine or ten times a day, and an ointment to his eyes every night. He followed these directions for three weeks, but was no better. He then left his cure to nature. The eyes continued inflamed for ten months, and then got so well that he followed his usual employment, though they were still very tender. In December, 1818, he was seized with pain and inflammation in his right eye. This continued night and day for four days, and entirely prevented him from sleeping. Of his own accord he used a little eye-wash five or six times a day, which made his eye smart. He took no physic, nor did he use any other remedy. At this time I saw him, and found his

eye very highly inflamed, and in constant pain. He was immediately bled from the arm, but he was not faint. A brisk purgative was also ordered to be taken without loss of time, but by mistake it was omitted for twenty-four hours. The same night on which he was bled, he had no sleep from the violence of the pain. The day following he was again ordered to lose blood from the arm; but this also was omitted, as the operator did not choose to bleed him in an afternoon. He had again a very bad night. Sixteen ounces of blood were however taken from his arm on the following day, from which he became a little faint. The pain now became easier, and he slept well the next night. The day afterwards, leeches were applied to his temple. He continued easier from the time he was bled from the arm, and passed another good night. His eye however continued much inflamed, and more blood was ordered to be taken from his arm. After this, the inflammation was still considerable on the conjunctiva, and it is probable that it pervaded the interior of the eye, as he could not see any object whatever on shutting the other eye, though the cornea was perfectly transparent. In a few days afterwards however, the inflammation abated, and he could discern objects distinctly. He is now in a fair way of recovering the perfect sight of his eye.

CASE XXVI.

A young man, aged eighteen, was seized in the year 1818, with an inflammation on the right eye, apparently from cold. He applied to a surgeon about three weeks after the attack; one leech was ordered to the temple, and an eye-wash to be used thrice a day, and a dose of salts to be taken twice a week, and he was told not to eat salt meat. The surgeon visited him twice a week, and at the third visit, ordered another leech to the temple. The lotion was now changed, but neither of them gave him pain. The same plan was continued for a month without amendment. He then applied to another surgeon, who ordered a different lotion to be used thrice a day, which gave him no pain; and a purgative was ordered twice a week, but no blood was directed to be taken either from the arm, or by leeches. This plan was likewise continued for a month, without any amendment. He then applied to a third surgeon, who immediately ordered six leeches to be applied to the temple, and pills and powders to be taken twice a day, but he did not order any external application to the eye. In ten days his eye was better, but not free from inflammation. After this, a further amendment took place, and he was tolerably well for about three weeks. A relapse then took place, at which time I saw him.

His eye was extremely inflamed but not in much pain, except when exposed to the light. Sixteen ounces of blood were ordered to be taken from the arm; and a dose of calomel, with salts, to be given immediately, and all the other remedies directed in this essay were prescribed. On the third day he was nearly well, all inflammation being removed, and from my notes I observe that his eye was as highly inflamed as I ever saw one. Soon afterwards however he had a relapse, and was obliged to go into the country, I do not therefore know what occurred afterwards.

CASE XXVII.

A man, aged fifty, applied to me, in the year 1818, having a violent inflammation in the right eye, attended with some pain, which however was not very acute. Sixteen ounces of blood were taken from the arm, and the usual aperients and diet, &c. were ordered; in a few days afterwards, an inflammation attacked the other eye. Blood was again taken from the arm, and leeches were applied to each temple. After which, the inflammation abated considerably in both eyes, but at the end of ten days, a little ulcer was seen on the lower part of the cornea below the pupil of one eye. It was about the size of a large pin's head, and appeared as a little dent on the

part. Two or three other little ulcers of the same kind were seen in a few days afterwards, on the upper part of the cornea, above the pupil; but there were no red vessels to be seen leading to these ulcers from the tunica conjunctiva. No external remedies of any kind were applied to these ulcers. The plan of reducing the remaining inflammation on the tunica conjunctiva by all the remedies pointed out in this essay, was followed. In about ten days more, the inflammation was much abated, and as it lessened, the ulcers evidently amended, and gradually filled up, and shortly afterwards were but just perceptible. Soon after this, the eye-lids were gummed up in the morning, for which he applied small quantities of the citrine ointment, and took the extract of hemlock. This plan removed the complaint altogether, and he recovered the perfect sight of both his eyes.

CASE XXVIII.

A girl, aged ten years, was attacked in November 1818, with an inflammation in the right eye; it was attended with pain, which extended to the temple and head. The disease continued in this state for a month, during which time the mother got no advice, but washed the eyes with warm milk and water. At this time I saw her. Three leeches were ordered to the temple, and a

dose of calomel was administered, with all the other remedies already so often pointed out. In three or four days she was a little easier, but on the whole not much better. Ten ounces of blood was therefore taken from her arm. On the same day she was easier, the eye was less inflamed, and she passed a better night than any of the preceding ones. At the end of a week, some pain and inflammation however still remained. She was again bled from the arm, but did not faint, yet she was a little sick. The same night she slept better than before, and in two days more the inflammation and pain were quite gone, and she could bear the light, which she had not done before, since the commencement of the complaint. When I first saw this girl, there was a little ulcer or indentation on the cornea nearly opposite to the pupil. It was about the size of a large pin's head, and had somewhat of a cloudy appearance. As the inflammation in the eye abated, this ulcer had a better appearance, and when it was removed, the ulcer entirely disappeared.

CASE XXIX.

A boy, aged fourteen, in the month of November 1818, was attacked with an inflammation in one eye, which continued a few days, and then attacked the other eye. This also

continued inflamed for a few days only, and the complaint then ceased without using any remedy. About a month afterwards, he was seized with a pricking pain and inflammation in his left eye. The eye-lids soon swelled, but the pain did not hinder him from sleeping. I saw him the third day after the attack, and as the inflammation was violent, about eight ounces of blood was taken from the arm, and a dose of calomel, and all the other remedies were given. Two days afterwards, being no better, three leeches were applied to the temple: after this, he continued much the same. Twelve ounces of blood were then taken from the arm, after which he became immediately better, and lost the pricking pain, which till then had continued through the day. The next day, the eye was much less inflamed, and in twelve days from the attack, he was quite well, having had two more leeches applied to the temple.

CASE XXX.

A woman, had three children, of the ages of seven years, three years, and six months. The child of three years old, was attacked with an inflammation of both eyes in February 1818, which in a few days discharged a purulent fluid. In a few days after the attack, the mother applied to an eminent oculist, who used some

liniment to the eyes twice or thrice a week, and ordered an eye wash to be used thrice a day ; both of which gave pain. They were used for a month, but the child was no better. No other remedies were advised. At this period I saw the child. Leeches, calomel, and all the other remedies recommended in this essay were advised. In three weeks, the disease was entirely removed without any defect in the sight. It may be remarked in this case, that the inflammation was not very violent, either at its commencement, or during its continuance, and not so great as to excite much alarm for the safety of the eyes. After the above child had been ill about a week, the child of seven years old was attacked with the same complaint, in both eyes, which in a few days discharged purulent matter. The eyes in this case were less inflamed than those of the younger child, as she could open them, and permit an inspection without much pain. The mother also applied to the same eminent oculist for this child, as for the other, and the same plan of cure was prescribed, and followed for three weeks without benefit. A week after the attack of the eldest, the youngest was seized with the same complaint, attended with the same kind of discharge. This child also could open the eyes, without great pain, nor was there much swelling

of the eye-lids in any of them. The same gentleman was also applied to for this child, and the same remedies were prescribed for some weeks, but with no better success than in the former cases. Both these children likewise were afterwards under my care, and were treated as already mentioned; in a few weeks, the complaint in all of them was entirely removed without any defect to the sight; but in all, the disease proved extremely obstinate, and disposed to recur when it was nearly removed, and it was apparently connected with a scrofulous taint in the habit; and as the parents were very poor, they had the disadvantage of contending with the bad air of London, added to that of a close room, in which they all lived. They are all now perfectly recovered.

CASES
OF
ACUTE INFLAMMATION
OF
THE EYES.

CASE XXXI.

A MAN, aged twenty-eight, was seized in August 1800, with a most violent inflammation in the left eye, attended with incessant pain night and day, by which he was prevented from sleeping, and could not bear the approach of light. Soon after the attack, he applied to an eminent and regular oculist, who ordered him to drop one drop of a liquid into the eye thrice a day, and to rub a little of an ointment into it every night. He continued to follow these directions for three weeks, and during all this time, he had scarcely an hour's sleep, nor was any other remedy internal or external ordered him. Two leeches to the temple were *now* ordered, but no purgative. He continued upon this plan for three weeks longer, but the leeches were not repeated, and though he told the gentleman that he had much

pain, and could not sleep, he was ordered to continue the drops. After a steady perseverance in these remedies for six weeks, finding himself no better, he was admitted into one of our best hospitals, where leeches, repeated purgatives and blisters were ordered him, but it was too late. Eight months after his first attack I saw him, the inflammation was then totally gone, but there appeared to be an opacity of the vitreous humour, and he was totally blind in that eye.

CASE XXXII.

A man, aged forty, was attacked in February 1809, with an inflammation in both eyes. In a week after the attack, he applied to an eminent oculist, who applied some drops to his eyes thrice a week, and gave him an eye wash to be used three or four times a day ; he also ordered some ointment to be used to the eyes every night, and afterwards to be rubbed off with a silk handkerchief. The drops gave him much pain. No internal medicine of any kind was ordered, nor were any directions given him about diet. He continued following these directions strictly for a fortnight, at which time, so far from being better, he was much worse, and with difficulty discerned any objects ; after this, he applied to another practitioner, who ordered two blisters

and a dose of salts. Soon after this I saw him, and ordered him to live low, to take a calomel pill, and to bathe the eyes frequently with warm milk and water. In three days the inflammation was much abated, and in five days more he was nearly well. In this case I have no memorandum of having ordered bleeding.

CASE XXXIII.

A man, aged forty, took a glass of gin and brimstone in February 1809, thrice a day for the rheumatism; after which, he was seized with an inflammation in his left eye. In a fortnight after the attack, he consulted an eminent oculist, who applied drops to the eye thrice a week, which from the time of their application increased the pain and inflammation; and in addition to this, he was ordered to wash his eyes with an eye-wash frequently during the day. This plan was continued for a month, during which time no other remedy was used, excepting that three leeches were once applied to the temple, and afterwards a small blister. Neither purgatives nor any particular diet were ordered. At the end of a month, he had almost lost the sight of his eye. At this time I saw him. He had violent pains in his eye, which extended to the head, and continued night and day. He was immediately bled from the arm, and the blood

was found to be sizey. This operation was repeated every two or three days as might be judged necessary. At the end of a fortnight, a violent inflammation attacked the other eye also. The inflammation was now so violent in both eyes, that he could not see for a day or two. He was bled from the arm ten times in all, partly before, and partly after the attack of inflammation in his right eye; by which the inflammation was subdued, and he recovered the perfect sight of both eyes.

CASE XXXIV.

A woman, aged thirty-eight, was attacked in March 1809, with violent pain and inflammation in both eyes. The pain was so great, that it prevented her even from lying down in the bed, and it was incessant night and day. She applied to an eminent oculist, who ordered her to use an eye-wash five or six times a day. No alteration was made in her diet, and in the course of a month's attendance, she was ordered to take three or four doses of salts. At the end of this period, I first saw her; both eyes were much inflamed, and the eye-lids swelled, and she was still in incessant pain night and day, and could scarcely discern any objects distinctly. She was ordered to discontinue the eye-wash, and to use all the remedies pointed out in this

essay. She was likewise ordered to be bled from the arm. This gave her immediate ease, and the following day she saw objects better, and the swelling was so much abated that she opened her eyes better. The violence of the disease however required that she should be bled four times more in the course of a fortnight; after which she was nearly well, and her sight was perfectly restored.

CASE XXXV.

A man, aged thirty, was attacked in May 1809, with violent pain and inflammation in his left eye, the former extended over the whole head, and it continued so violent that he could not sleep night or day. On the third day from this attack, he applied to an eminent oculist, who applied drops to his eye thrice a week, and he was ordered to use an eye-wash thrice a day. He was ordered also a mixture every night which did not purge him. No particular diet was directed for him. A blister was however ordered on his temple. No blood was taken from his arm, but three leeches were applied to the temple the first week, and two the second week from the attack. He continued upon this plan for a fortnight, during which time he suffered the most excruciating pain. At this period his eye was supposed to have burst, or the hu-

mours were absorbed, for when I saw him many months afterwards, the eye was quite flat, not being half its natural size, and there was a thick opacity over the cornea.

About three months after he lost the sight of the left eye, he was attacked with an inflammation on his right eye, which was not however attended with much pain in the head or eye. He applied again to the same gentleman as before, who ordered a wash to be applied thrice a day, also some drops, which were to be dropped into his eye thrice a day, which gave him pain. No internal medicine was ordered. One blister was applied to the temple, but no leeches, or any other remedy. After a month's strict attention to this plan, he was no better. In this case also I have no further memorandum. I am therefore totally unacquainted with the result, and as in the following case, it is now nearly ten years since I took it down, I cannot find out the residence of either of them, in order to complete their cases.

CASE XXXVI.

A woman, aged forty-three, was attacked in July 1809, with a violent inflammation in the right eye, attended with considerable pain. After it had continued for six weeks, she applied to an eminent oculist, who applied drops

to the eye two or three times a week, which gave her pain ; besides these, she was ordered different eye-washes, which generally gave pain. She was ordered leeches once, and a blister behind the ear, but no particular diet. She took a small dose of Epsom salts every day of her own accord. At the end of six weeks from the commencement of these remedies, I saw her, and found the eye much swelled and inflamed, and worse than before she began them. My memorandum of this case here closes, from a forgetfulness on my part to record the result.

CASE XXXVII.

A young man, aged twenty-one, was attacked with an inflammation in both his eyes. Some days after the attack, he applied to some notorious quacks in Holborn, who applied drops to his eyes, and afterwards blew into them a powder twice a day. These applications gave him great pain at first, and after being used two or three times, his sight became much worse, and he could scarcely discern objects; though previous to his application to these people, he could read any kind of print. He continued however following this treatment for six weeks, during which time he was ordered a purgative once a week only. He was not bled from the arm, nor were leeches applied or blisters; nor

any directions given about diet. Not finding himself any better at the end of this period, he applied to a regular, and very eminent oculist, who applied some drops to his eyes daily, but he did not order bleeding in any form, or any purgative, or plan of diet. He continued upon this plan for three or four weeks, after which the inflammation gradually subsided. I did not see this patient till some months had elapsed from the last treatment. He had then almost totally lost his sight. There was a thick and large opacity in the centre of the cornea of each eye. A distortion of the iris in each could also be indistinctly seen, and it is probable that further unseen mischief was also done to the internal structure of the eye. The opacity on the cornea was too thick to give any hopes of its removal. It should have been prevented from fixing its residence there, by the active means of reducing inflammation, instead of being invited by stimulant topical applications.

CASE XXXVIII.

A man, aged forty, was attacked with violent inflammation on his left eye, which was not attended with much pain. He applied immediately to an eminent oculist, who ordered an eye-wash to be used ten times a day, with some powders and pills to be taken inwardly. Not

finding himself any better in four days, he applied to me. I found the eye-lids swelled, the eye a good deal inflamed, and the sight somewhat obscured, as the cornea was beginning to be opaque over its whole surface. He was thrice bled from the arm, and in a fortnight was perfectly well.

CASE XXXIX.

A man, aged fifty-five, was suddenly attacked in July 1811, with a violent pain and inflammation in the left eye, attended with some swelling of the eye lids; and the pain was so violent that he was prevented from sleeping. Soon after the attack, he applied to an eminent oculist, who ordered drops to be applied to the eye thrice a day, which gave him great pain at each application. No other remedy was used, nor were any directions given about diet. After following this plan for a month, he totally lost the sight of the eye, from an incurable opacity over the whole of the cornea.

CASE XL.

A woman, aged fifty-one, was attacked in the year 1814, with an inflammation in the right eye from cold. It was somewhat uneasy, but she followed her employment, and slept well. At the end of a fortnight, without using any re-

medy, the inflammation went away, and she continued well for six months. After this period, the same eye became again inflamed. She then applied to a practitioner, who cupped her in the neck, and afterwards blew a powder into her eye, which gave her some pain. This was repeated three or four times a day. Finding that she was not better, this gentleman recommended her to one of the most eminent oculists now in practice, who promised to remove the inflammation in a short time. When she first applied, the inflammation was not very violent, nor did the eye give her much pain, except when it was exposed to a strong light, nor did it hinder her from sleeping. It was only uneasy, and on going into the air it became more inflamed. Some drops were immediately applied to the eye, which made it smart very much; an eye-wash was also ordered to be used several times a day, which gave her pain. Some gentle physic was ordered, which sometimes gave her one or two stools a day, but sometimes none. No directions were given her about diet, as she drank beer and eat meat as before. She was particularly told not to wear a shade, and that it would blind her if she applied one, and she was forbid even to put her handkerchief to the eye when in pain from the applica-

tion of the drops. Finding she was no better at the end of a week, she was ordered to be cupped. She attended six days a week to have the drops applied to the eye, and continued their use daily, with that of the lotion for six weeks, during which time no addition was made to the plan, excepting the application of leeches to the temples twice. The cupping was not repeated, nor was blood taken from the arm. At the end of this period, she was so much worse, that she was persuaded by her friends not to attend any longer. She then left her case to nature, and applied to no one. The inflammation afterwards gradually subsided, but she found such a defect in the eye, that she could scarcely discern any objects, though before the application of these remedies, she could see very well, even though the eye was inflamed. Four years after this treatment, I had the opportunity for the first time of examining the state of the eye, and found three distinct and very opaque spots on the cornea, nearly opposite to the pupil, which were evidently incurable. Some mischief appeared also to be done to the iris, but the opacity of the cornea was so great that it could not be examined correctly. She now sees objects with this eye very indistinctly, owing to these causes.

CASE XLI.

A man, aged sixty, was seized in May 1814, with a violent inflammation in his left eye, which gradually increased. A few days after the attack, he applied to an eminent oculist, who applied drops to his eye, which made it smart as he expressed it. Two days afterwards, they were applied again, and at this time the application was followed by violent pain, and a great increase of inflammation, so that the sight of the eye was endangered. He was now in constant pain night and day. No other remedies were ordered except a purgative. This plan was continued for ten days, at which time I saw him. Twenty-four ounces of blood were taken from the arm, by which he became a little faint. The day following he was easier, and on the whole much better. In two or three days however the inflammation recurred. He was bled again, and again a slight syncope followed. After this he was much relieved; but in two days the inflammation returned. He was then bled a third time, with the same good effect. It was however necessary to bleed him a fourth time, and at each bleeding some syncope followed. After these evacuations, and at the end of a fortnight from his first application to me, the inflammation attacked the right eye, without

any known cause. This relieved the inflammation in the other eye. The bleedings were ordered to be repeated at different periods, according to the degree of pain and inflammation in the eyes. By these, and a strict attention to all the other remedies, he was perfectly cured in about a month from the time he was first bled, without receiving any injury to vision in either eye.

CASE XLII.

A woman, aged twenty-five, was seized in May, 1814, with violent pain in the left eye, attended with great inflammation, and a swelling of both eye-lids. This swelling came on so rapidly, that in two or three hours from the attack, the lids could not be opened so as to inspect the eye. The pain was constant night and day, and prevented her altogether from sleeping. Three leeches were applied to the temple by a practitioner in surgery; these were repeated twice in the course of the first five days of the complaint, and two or three doses of a purgative were ordered, which operated gently. An eye-wash was also ordered to be applied to the eye frequently every day, which gave much pain, and in addition to this, six drops of a liquid were directed to be dropped into the eye thrice a day. This also gave her dreadful pain

at each application. What these were I could not learn, but was told it burned holes in the linen which it touched. These remedies were used for five days, during which time, the pain and inflammation continued unabated, and she was unable to get any sleep. On the fifth day, sixteen ounces of blood were taken from the back by cupping, a blister was applied to the left temple, and the eye-washes were ordered to be continued. I saw her on the seventh day from the attack, at which time the affected eye was entirely destroyed. I found it very prominent and distorted, with a considerable opacity over the whole of the cornea. To this day the eye has the same appearance.

CASE XLIII.

A stout man, aged thirty-five, was seized in June, 1814, without any apparent cause, with violent pain in the right eye, which soon became much inflamed. He continued in extreme pain night and day for three days, which extended over the whole head, and the eye-lids were much swelled. During this time he used no remedy. He was now seized with the same acute pain in the left eye, which was followed by high inflammation. At this time the sight of the right eye was so much impaired, that every object appeared indistinct, as if seen through a mist. On

the following day, the sight was as much impaired in the other eye; the eye-lids were much swelled, and a large watery secretion was discharged from both eyes. I now saw him for the first time; twenty-four ounces of blood were immediately taken from the arm, by which he became a little faint. After this he was somewhat easier. He did not apply again for advice for three days, and as the inflammation was still considerable, he was bled again, by which he was a little faint. He became again somewhat easier, particularly in the right eye. The following day he was still in extreme pain, and both eyes were very much inflamed. Twenty-four ounces of blood were immediately taken away, from which he nearly fainted. During the syncope, his eyes lost their redness. The same night he slept better than he had done since the attack, and the following day, he was much better. In two or three days after this, he was bled again, as much inflammation still continued, but he did not faint. After this, he recovered immediately. During the cure, he used strictly all the remedies prescribed in this essay.

CASE XLIV.

A woman, aged fifty-two, in June 1814, was suddenly seized with a violent pain in the right

eye, which was soon followed by great inflammation of the conjunctiva, and much swelling on both eye-lids. The pain was deep seated, extending all over the head, and continued night and day, by which she was prevented for the most part from sleeping. She continued in this state for a week, without having any advice, or taking any remedy, or using any external application. During this time, she was hot and feverish. For the last three days of this period, the inflammation increased so much, that she was entirely deprived of the sight of that eye. At this time I first saw her. About thirty ounces of blood were taken from her arm, and all the other methods already mentioned were ordered to be strictly followed. She became a little faint from the loss of blood. I saw her two days afterwards, and found her nearly well, the eye was quite easy, and the pain in the head was removed. In two days more, she was perfectly cured, and the sight of her eye restored.

CASE XLV.

In June 1814, a man, aged twenty-nine, having had a discharge of water, attended with a slight inflammation for some days in both eyes, was advised to put a little ointment procured from an eminent oculist into one of them. The follow-

ing day, a considerable swelling and inflammation took place on both eye-lids, as well as in the eye itself. In three days his eye was entirely closed from the violence of the swelling, and he had very little sleep from the constant pain he endured. Fourteen ounces of blood were taken from the arm, from which he fainted; all the other remedies already mentioned were prescribed. The following night he slept well, was quite easy, and could open his eye. A little abscess now appeared on the under eye-lid, which burst on the third day after he was bled. At this time the tunica conjunctiva was examined, and found to be much inflamed; but as this was evidently in a less degree than before, and as he was quite free from pain, it was not judged necessary to repeat the bleeding. In three or four days afterwards, the inflammation was nearly gone, and in a few days more he was perfectly well, and recovered his sight.

CASE XLVI.

A man, aged forty-six, was seized in June 1814, with a violent inflammation in his right eye, which soon became very painful. He applied for advice to a professional gentleman a few days after the attack, and was ordered to apply three leeches to the temple; some physic was given

him, and afterwards, a blister was applied to the same temple. He was also ordered an eye-wash to the eye, which was to be used frequently. The eye-wash was continued for three weeks, and the physic was ordered occasionally, but the leeches were not repeated. At this period I saw him. The eye was very violently inflamed, and for the last three days, the pain had been incessant night and day. In short, under the above treatment, the complaint had much increased. Twenty-four ounces of blood were taken from the arm, but it did not bring on a syncope. The following day he was much better, and easier. Five days afterwards however, his eye was still so much inflamed, that it was judged necessary to repeat the bleeding. Immediately after this, he was much better, and soon perfectly recovered.

CASE XLVII.

A man, aged twenty-five, was attacked in June 1814, with violent pain and inflammation in the right eye. On the second night it was so painful that he could not sleep. On the night following, it was the same. At this period I saw him; he had used no remedy. The inflammation in the eye was extremely violent, and he was in constant pain. Sixteen ounces of blood were taken from the arm, but he was not faint. He became immediately easier, and continued

so for four days. The inflammation then returned with the pain. It was not however so violent as at the first attack. Three days after this last attack, I saw him again. The left eye was now attacked with inflammation, but the right eye was still the worst. Both were in considerable pain. About thirty ounces of blood were taken from the arm, from which he fainted. The inflammation and pain were considerably lessened immediately, but two days afterwards, both returned, yet were not so violent as before. He was now bled again, but he did not faint. He got quite well in two or three days afterwards.

CASE XLVIII.

A young woman, aged eighteen, was seized in July 1814, with a violent inflammation in her right eye, attended with extreme pain which extended to the head, and prevented her from sleeping. A watery discharge attended the complaint, and the eye-lids were much swelled. She continued in this state a fortnight, without having advice. She then went to a gentleman of the profession, who applied drops to the eye thrice a week, which gave her much pain. An eye-wash was also ordered two or three times a day. After these applications, she had much more pain night and day, and the eye became

worse daily : and at the end of a month from the commencement of these applications, she lost the sight of the eye ; but before she began them, she could see tolerably well. During the time she was using these remedies, she was ordered to take physic every morning, which operated two or three times a day ; one leech was once applied to the right temple, and at another time two. A blister was also applied to the temple, but no directions were given to her about diet. A shade which she wore was ordered to be discontinued.* At this period, the left eye, which at first was free from inflammation, gradually became inflamed, and at the end of another month, this eye was also in a painful and dangerous state, having had the same treatment as the right eye. At this time I first saw her. In examining her right eye, I found the sight totally gone from a thick and incurable opacity of the cornea. No time was now to be lost in restoring the left eye. She had sixteen ounces of blood taken from her arm, from which she fainted. The next day she was much easier and better, the eye was less inflamed, and she could bear the light better. Two days afterwards she was bled again, but

* All the other patients who attended this gentleman, received similar directions respecting the use of a shade,

did not faint. By following all the other directions related in this essay, the left eye was perfectly cured in a fortnight.

CASE XLIX.

A woman, aged twenty-five, was attacked in July 1814, with pain and inflammation in the left eye, attended with a swelling of the eyelids, and violent pain, which continued night and day, and extended over the whole head, and was attended with heat and fever, and a discharge of a serous fluid. The complaint continued in this state for a week, and then attacked the other eye in the same manner. During all this time, she had no advice, and used no application to her eye. I then saw her. She was ordered to lose sixteen ounces of blood from the arm, and to follow all the other directions given in this essay in such cases. She did not faint from the loss of blood, but she was better the following day. The day afterwards she was bled again, as the inflammation still continued violent; after this she was again better; but it was found necessary to bleed her a third time, yet no syncope or tendency to it ensued. Although she was somewhat relieved by this loss of blood, and the remedies she was using, yet two days after the last bleeding, the inflammation was still so violent, and the pain so constant,

(being quite unable to bear the approach of light) that I judged the sight to be in danger. She was therefore directed to be bled again, with orders to produce a slight syncope. This was effected, and from this time the pain ceased, and the inflammation began to abate. Two days afterwards, she was so much better, that all apprehension for the loss of sight was removed, and in three or four days more she was entirely well.

CASE L.

A man, aged twenty-seven, was attacked in July 1814, with a violent inflammation in both eyes, attended with considerable pain. He applied to a gentleman of eminence, who ordered drops to be used to the eyes twice a day, each application of which gave him considerable pain. He was also ordered a purgative every morning, which operated four or five times a day. Finding that the complaint did not yield, he was ordered to be cupped. He still continued nearly as before. The purgative and drops to his eye were continued for five weeks, during which time he was cupped four times, but he was still no better. After this, he continued the use of the drops for four months, during which time he was unable to work, and the inflammation was but little abated. At this period I first saw him.

He was ordered to discontinue the drops, and to lose sixteen ounces of blood from the arm. In a few days after this he got perfectly well. It may be proper to remark, that he was forbid to wear a shade, by the gentleman who first saw him.

CASE LI.

A man, aged thirty-three, was seized in July 1814, with a violent inflammation in his right eye, attended with considerable pain. He continued in this state for a fortnight, without using any remedy. At this time I saw him, and ordered him to lose sixteen ounces of blood, by which he was a little faint. The next day he was much easier, and the inflammation was considerably abated. On the day following however the pain and inflammation returned. He was then bled again, and nearly fainted. In three days afterwards, he was perfectly well.

CASE LII.

A man, aged twenty-two, was seized in August 1814, with inflammation in his left eye; the eyelids soon swelled so much that he was unable to open his eye. The complaint was attended with considerable pain, which extended over the whole head, and in a few days he was unable to distinguish objects. When he applied to me,

he had been in this state for fourteen days, and had had no advice. The pain was now constant night and day, and for the last three nights he had had no sleep. A considerable discharge of a watery kind constantly issued from the eye. He was ordered to lose twenty-four ounces of blood, by which he became faint. The blood was sizey. I saw him two days afterwards. The first night after he was bled he slept very well, but the following night was not so good. The swelling and inflammation were now considerably less, and he could begin to distinguish objects indistinctly. All the other remedies already described were used, and in a few days the inflammation and swelling were entirely removed, and he recovered his sight perfectly. This man had an inflammation in the same eye a year before.

CASE LIII.

A man, aged seventy, was attacked in September 1814, with an inflammation in both eyes, which was violent, and attended with pain in the day time; but it was not so violent in the night as to prevent him from sleeping. He first applied to a quack, who put a liquid into the eyes every day with a tea-spoon, by making him lye upon his back. This gave him some pain. No medicine was given. After continuing this plan for three

months without benefit, he applied to a regular practitioner, who ordered a liquid to be injected into the eyes with a syringe thrice a week. This gave him much pain, which continued through the day. He was ordered no medicine, except a gentle purgative twice. No directions were given to him about diet. He continued to use the syringe for two years. In addition to this remedy, his eyes were lanced more than twenty times. At the end of this period I saw him first, and found that both eyes were very much inflamed; he could not open the right eye, from which it was difficult to judge whether he had the sight of it; but he could open the other, and distinguish objects with it tolerably well. Sixteen ounces of blood were immediately taken from his arm, by which he became a little faint. While bleeding, he voluntarily said that he felt easier in both eyes, and found he could open his right eye. The following day he was much better, both eyes being less painful, and he could now see with the right eye. Two days afterwards he was bled again, and became faint. He was much easier the following night and afterwards. Three days after this all inflammation was nearly gone, and in all respects he was better, and soon afterwards was perfectly cured.

CASE LIV.

A young man, aged twenty-five, having been subject to an inflammation of the left eye occasionally for three years, was seized with fresh inflammation in it in September, 1814. When he applied to me this eye had been inflamed for three weeks, attended with much pain, and a watery discharge. During this time he had used an eye-wash, but no other remedy, and was no better. I ordered him to be bled from the arm, by which he became faint. The same day he was a little better, and also the following day. In two days more he was much better, and in a week nearly well.

CASE LV.

A woman, aged forty-eight, was suddenly seized in September, 1814, with an inflammation in her left eye, attended with deep seated pain, extending to the innermost parts of the head. Both the upper and under eye-lid was swelled and inflamed, but she could not open the eye so as to let it be inspected. In three or four days the pain became so violent, that she did not sleep the two following nights. In this alarming situation she had no advice, and used no remedy. The disease continued nearly in

the same state for about a fortnight longer, during which time no remedies were used. At this period I saw her, and found her totally and incurably blind on the affected eye.

CASE LVI.

A man, aged thirty-five, was seized in January, 1815, with a violent inflammation of the left eye, which came on without any known cause. The pain was so great that it frequently prevented him from sleeping, and the eye felt as if pins were always in it. He continued in this state for three months, without having any advice, or using any remedy. At the end of this period he applied to me, his eye was now so much inflamed, and so painful, that he could but just discern objects. The right eye also was beginning to inflame. Sixteen ounces of blood was taken from his arm, but it produced no syncope. He lost however about eight ounces of blood unintentionally the same night in bed, by the removal of the bandage, from which he became faint. The day following the eye was much better; in two days more it was nearly well, and in a fortnight he was perfectly restored, and his sight was uninjured. In this case, there was a considerable secretion of water from the eye.

LVII.

A woman, aged thirty-six, was seized in January 1815, with a violent inflammation in both eyes, attended with considerable pain, and some swelling of the eye-lids. She continued in this state for four months, without having any advice, being sometimes a little better. At this time I saw her. She was ordered a dose or two of calomel, and some salts, by which she was a little better. It was judged best however to take away six ounces of blood from the arm. The pain became immediately easier, and in less than a week she was nearly well.

CASE LVIII.

A lad, aged fifteen, was seized in January 1815, with a violent inflammation in the right eye, attended with some pain; this continued about five days, but he used no remedy for it. He was ordered to be bled from the arm, and all the other remedies heretofore mentioned were prescribed. In a week he was nearly well.

CASE LIX.

A woman, aged forty-six, was attacked with a considerable inflammation in the left eye. She applied to a quack in Holborn, who applied drops to it frequently, which gave her much pain. I saw her at the end of a month, and found

her no better. She was ordered to lose sixteen ounces of blood from the arm, by which she was nearly well in three or four days.

CASE LX.

A man, aged thirty-eight, was seized in February 1815, with an inflammation in his right eye, attended with pain. He applied to a quack, who ordered him to use an eye-wash, three or four times a day, which gave him great pain. This he continued for a month, without being any better. He was ordered to take salts once or twice a week, but he had no directions to use any other remedy. He then applied to the shop in Holborn, where drops were applied to his eye six days a week. After the right eye had been inflamed for a week, the left eye became also inflamed and very painful. He continued applying the drops to both eyes for eight months; at the end of which time he was no better. He was still ordered to use no other remedy but the drops, and to take a dose of salts now and then. He had a large family, and being unable to do any business, was advised at this time to apply to me. The right eye on examination, was nearly gone; a thick opacity having formed over most parts of the cornea. The sight of the left eye was also much obscured by an opacity which was beginning to form over the cornea, as he could but just see to walk about. Sixteen

ounces of blood were taken from his arm, from which he was somewhat better. Finding, in a few days after this, that there was still considerable inflammation in both eyes, he was bled till he became faint, and lost thirty ounces of blood. Four days after this I saw him, and was pleased to find that the inflammation was nearly gone. The dim opacity of the cornea of the left eye was almost removed, and his sight was much more perfect. He gradually recovered the sight of this eye, and much of the opacity of the cornea of the right eye also went away, as that portion of it which was opposite to the pupil proved to be the thinnest, and was first absorbed, so that he acquired a good sight of this eye also.

CASE LXI.

A woman, aged fifty-one, was seized in 1815, with violent pain and inflammation in both eyes, attended with much swelling in the upper and under eye-lids, and a considerable watery discharge. The pain was extremely violent, and constant night and day, and it prevented her from sleeping. She applied to a surgeon the day after the attack, who ordered three leeches to be applied to the upper eye-lid of one eye, which bled much. Powders were ordered to be taken thrice a week, which purged her. A blue eye-wash was also ordered to be used three or four

times a day, which gave her much pain; but no directions were given about diet, nor were the leeches ordered to be repeated, or blisters to be applied. On the fourth day from the attack, the right eye suddenly sunk in the socket. She continued the above plan for a month, without using any other remedy. Finding she had then apparently lost the sight of both eyes, she applied to the eminent oculist who treated the sixty-seventh case, who applied drops and a blue eye-wash to the left eye, as in other cases. She used these for a month, and was then ordered the drops night and morning. In two or three days after she applied to him, she was ordered to be cupped once, but no directions were given about diet. I saw this poor woman three years after this attack; the right eye was quite flat, with a thick opacity over a flattened and small cornea. Over the whole of the cornea of the left eye, there was also a thick and incurable opacity, except a little transparency on the edges, by which she had a glimmering of light, but without being able to distinguish objects.

CASE LXII.

A stonemason, aged twenty-six, was attacked in March 1815, with a slight inflammation in his right eye, which continued for a fortnight,

during which time he used no remedy. At this time he was hit by a stone while at work, on the outside of the same eye; immediately after this, the inflammation and pain increased to so great a degree, that he was obliged to leave off work. He had no advice for four days, but used an eye-wash of his own accord, which made his eye smart. At this time he applied to me. The pain and inflammation, with a swelling of the eye-lids was very great, and he was unable to sleep. Numerous red blood vessels were distinctly seen on the cornea, so that it was in an active state of inflammation as well as the sclerotic. Fourteen ounces of blood were immediately taken from the arm, and he was ordered a dose of calomel, and all the other remedies prescribed in this essay. The next day he was a little better. On the following day he was still in so much pain, that he was bled again, and on the third day it was repeated; and although he lost a considerable quantity of blood each time, he was not faint. At this period his eye was very little better, for though he was easier after each bleeding for a time, the pain afterwards returned. Two days after the last bleeding, I examined his eye minutely, and found that an opacity had formed, attended with numerous red blood vessels over almost the whole of the cornea, and that he had totally lost his sight. The conjunc-

tiva of course was also extremely inflamed, and the whole eye was very painful. It was evident that no time was now to be lost, as it was probable that in a few days more, an incurable opacity would have formed over the whole of the cornea. It was now proposed that he should be bled till he became faint. This was effected when twenty-four ounces of blood were taken away. From that moment all pain ceased, and the inflammation lessened considerably. The swelling also on the eye-lids abated. In ten days afterwards he was so much better that he began to see objects, and in a fortnight he could see very well, and his eye was perfectly restored, except that a little opacity remained on the lower part of the cornea, but it was not at all opposed to the pupil. The conjunctiva at this time was perfectly white.

CASE LXIII.

In the year 1815, a young man, aged 15, at a boarding-school in the country, was attacked with violent inflammation, attended with great pain in the left eye: between twenty and thirty other boys were also attacked in a like manner, and the disorder was supposed to be infectious. The eye-lids were much swelled, and the pain was constant night and day, and prevented him from sleeping. On the second

day he was visited by a surgeon, who immediately scarified the under eye-lid, and ordered five leeches to the cheek underneath the eye, which afterwards swelled much from the bite of the leeches; a blister was also ordered behind the ear, and he was directed to live low, being forbid porter and meat. A purgative was also given him. The day following he was visited again, and as there was no abatement in the complaint, his eye was syringed with a very sharp wash, which changed the colour of the instrument to a light blue. This gave him violent pain, which lasted for a quarter of an hour, and occasioned a discharge of water from the eye. Directions were given to repeat this injection two or three times a day, which always occasioned great pain. He was visited every day for four or five days afterwards, and the same plan was pursued, excepting that four or five leeches were applied daily; but he had no blood taken from the arm. On the fifth day, the eye-lids continued to be much swelled, and he was still in constant pain night and day. His friends and the surgeon were now alarmed for the safety of his eye, and he was advised to consult a surgeon in town, who ordered the injections into the eye to be discontinued, but the leeches and scarification of the eye-lid to be repeated every day, or every other day, with the

purgatives, &c. but no blood was ordered to be taken from the arm. In a day or two after this, a film was perceived on the cornea. He was now advised to go to one of the most eminent and respectable oculists in town; who immediately put a powder into his eye which gave him great pain, and also ordered a lotion to be applied very frequently with an eye glass. This also gave him great pain. Five or six leeches were also ordered to the temple every day, or every other day. This young man visited this gentleman every day or every other day for a month. The powder and eye-wash were ordered to be continued during this period, both of which gave him as much pain as at first. At the end of this time he was however no better, the pain and inflammation being nearly the same. He was now so bad, that his surgeon was obliged to visit him at his own house almost daily. He had entirely lost the sight of his eye, and was obliged for the most part, to keep his bed. The eye became gradually prominent, and it was so painful, that it was thought right to puncture it, and let out the aqueous humour, which occasioned the projection; when this was done, he became easier. In ten days however the eye became prominent again, attended with pain, and the same operation was repeated with the same success. During all this time,

the wash to the eye was continued, which gave him great pain. The inflammation now gradually subsided, but a thick opacity was found to extend over the whole of the cornea; to this, caustic was applied, which gave him great pain for two hours. The eye still projected, and it was proposed to take it out, and apply a glass eye, in order to remedy this deformity. This however was postponed; in the mean time the size of the eye gradually lessened, and became at length less prominent, though much larger than natural. At this time he remains in the same state, with the total loss of the sight.

REMARKS.

The experience that I have had in cases of this kind, emboldens me to say, that if the lancet had been used freely at the commencement of this interesting case, and the topical applications and scarifications to the eye entirely omitted, there would have been no difficulty in removing the disease, without any defect to the sight. The subject of this case, is a fine young man, now residing in Covent-garden market.

CASE LXIV.

In November 1816, I examined the eyes of a young woman who had been under the care of

an eminent oculist, for a violent and acute inflammation in both eyes, attended with much pain. Eye-washes and drops, but scarcely any other remedy, were used for many weeks in order to remove the inflammation. This afterwards gradually subsided, but its long continuance and violence, had left a thick opacity upon the cornea of the right eye, from which she was totally blind, and without any prospect of its being removed. There was also a partial opacity of the cornea of the left eye, and although it was extensive, a small portion was still so transparent, that she could distinguish persons and objects. In this state she was persuaded to apply to a regular oculist of the very first eminence now in practice. He applied caustics, and a strong solution of blue vitriol to this eye. These gave her excessive pain, and produced even a swelling of the eye-lids. She continued the use of these remedies for three or four weeks, after which, the whole cornea became opaque, and she is now totally blind of this eye also.

CASE LXV.

A man, aged twenty-six, was attacked with a slight inflammation in his left eye in April 1817. This continued for two days, after which, the eye became violently inflamed, and for three successive nights he was in constant pain, though

the eye-lids were not much swelled. At this period he was ordered to be bled from the arm, but the operator could not find a vein. Leeches however were several times applied to the temple, but they did not give much ease, nor did they abate the inflammation to any considerable degree. At the end of four days from the attempt to take blood from the arm, another practitioner succeeded in opening a vein, and taking away eight ounces of blood, by which he became immediately easy, and soon afterwards got well.

CASE LXVI.

A young man, aged twenty-two, servant to a gentleman, was attacked with a smarting pain in the left eye, in the year 1806, attended with inflammation. On the third day from the attack, he was sent by his master to one of the most eminent oculists in town. Something was immediately applied to the eye with a probe, and afterwards a white powder was applied to it. These applications gave him considerable pain for the space of half an hour, and obliged him to remain in the room till it had abated. He had also some green drops given him to apply thrice a day at home. These also gave him violent pain for two or three minutes. Neither leeches, nor bleeding in any form was ordered, nor were any directions given him about diet;

warm brandy and water was also ordered to be applied to the eye, in addition to the other remedies, and some purgative salts and pills were ordered to be taken inwardly. He attended upon this gentleman thrice a week, and the same applications and remedies were repeated without any alteration for three weeks; during which time he grew worse and worse, and had more pain, which became very violent after these applications had been used a fortnight. At the end of three weeks, finding he was worse, four leeches were applied to the temple of the affected side, and a blister behind the ear. The drops, &c. to the eye were ordered to be continued, but no further alteration was made. This plan was continued for three months, at the end of which time he was no better, and could discern no objects; indeed he informed me that he had not been able to see since the first week of the attack. At this period he left the above gentleman, and applied to an eminent surgeon, who ordered him to discontinue all the external applications. The inflammation now gradually subsided, but an opacity was left over the whole of the cornea, which prevented him from seeing any object whatever. Some months after he found that he had lost his sight, he applied to another eminent oculist, in order to get the opacity removed. An application was used

to the eye, of some powders and drops, for this purpose and continued for five weeks; but these were of no avail. Caustic was then applied, which gave him so much pain as to confine him to his room for three days; this brought on an inflammation, which lasted a week, and seemed to endanger the sight of the other eye. He then gave up all remedies, and *now* remains in the state I have described.

CASE LXVII.

A young man, aged eighteen, was attacked in 1818, with an inflammation of the right eye, attended with much pain. Soon after the attack, he applied to an eminent oculist, who dropped some drops into the eye four times a week, which gave him much pain for a quarter of an hour. He also ordered him to take bark and salts. He continued this plan about a month without receiving any benefit, when the other eye became inflamed and very painful. This also was treated in the same manner as the other. This plan was continued for three months, at which time he was ordered to be cupped; but neither leeches nor bleeding in any other way were ordered. After this time the inflammation gradually abated. I saw this young man some months afterwards, and examined his eyes. There was an incurable and thick opacity over

the whole cornea of the right eye, which prevented him from seeing any object. There was also a considerable opacity over the whole cornea of the left eye, but in some parts of it the opaque matter was thinner, by which he could indistinctly discern objects. He is however so blind, that he is unable to follow his employment, and is scarcely able to find his way about the town. This young man informed me, that the oculist who treated him as I have described, has sometimes 100 patients at a time in his room, that he calls them in one by one, and to *all* applies his drops with a sponge, which generally give pain. He afterwards orders the eyes to be washed with warm water. He also gives to *all* a blue wash to be used once a day. He rarely orders any of them to be bled, either by leeches, or from the arm; nor does he give any directions about diet, but sometimes orders salts, and he will not suffer any of them to wear a shade.

CASE LXVIII.

A girl, aged sixteen, was attacked in January 1818, with a violent inflammation and pain in the left eye, attended with a watery discharge, and a considerable swelling of the eye lids. The pain was constant night and day, for two months, but much more severe during the

first three weeks. After the disease had continued three days, she applied an eye wash, which gave her much pain. After using this application for ten days, she applied to an eminent oculist, who applied drops to her eye, which gave her great pain. He also ordered an eye wash to be used twice a day, which did not cause much uneasiness. The drops were used once a week only, and this plan was continued for three weeks; during this time, two leeches were applied to the temples, and a gentle purgative was given every morning; but no directions were given about diet, and she was ordered not to wear a shade. I saw this girl about six months from the first attack of the disease. The inflammation was removed, but there was an incurable opacity over the whole of the cornea, like a thick cloud, so that she was perfectly blind. At this period she was suddenly attacked with an inflammation in her right eye, which prevented her from sleeping from excessive pain. Without advice she washed it frequently with brandy and water, which gave her much pain, and increased the inflammation. This plan was continued three or four days; I saw her on the fifth day; a thin cloudy obscurity was distinctly seen over the whole cornea, and she could not distinguish objects clearly. The brandy and water was immediately discontinued, and twelve

ounces of blood were taken from the arm. In a few days the inflammation was removed, and she is now well.

CASE LXIX.

A young man, aged eighteen, applied to me in January 1818, for the cure of a very violent inflammation of both eyes, one of which was however much more inflamed than the other. The disease had continued for a week, and was attended with much pain. No remedies had been used for it previous to his application. He was bled once only from the arm, and took two doses of calomel, and the same of salts; following also all the other directions pointed out in this essay. He was perfectly well in the course of a week, without using any other remedies.

CASE LXX.

A boy, aged fourteen, was attacked in April 1818, with an inflammation in both eyes. Soon after the attack, he went to an eminent oculist, who applied drops, and an eye-wash in the usual way. When he first consulted him he could see very well. He continued using these remedies for two months, at which period I saw him. The sight of his right eye was totally gone, from a thick opacity over the whole of the cornea, and a slighter opacity was formed over the

greater part of the cornea of the left eye, so that he could distinguish objects very indistinctly. This eye was therefore considered to be in great danger. He was bled twice a week from the arm, and used all the other remedies prescribed in this essay for a month; after which, he recovered a perfect sight of his left eye.

CASE LXXV.

A young man, aged twenty-seven, was attacked in May 1818, with violent pain and inflammation in the left eye, which he supposed arose from cold. The pain extended to the head, particularly on that side, and prevented him from sleeping. He was directed by a surgeon to take a few calomel pills, but not to use an eye-wash. At the end of a fortnight he was in the same state, there being no abatement of pain or inflammation. At this time I saw him. Sixteen ounces of blood were taken from his arm, and all the other remedies recommended in this essay were advised. The same day, and the following, he was much easier, and the eye was less inflamed. The pain and inflammation however returned. Four days afterwards, the same quantity of blood was taken away, from which he was again much easier, and the eye was less

inflamed. The pain and inflammation however again returned, and in five days he was bled again, and leeches were ordered to the temple on the intermediate days between the bleedings. He was again much better after the last bleeding, being much easier than at any time before, and the inflammation was much more subdued; but in two days the inflammation and pain again returned, though not quite so violent as before, and he had another bad night. He was again bled, and became a little faint, which had not been the case before, though the bleedings were copious. After this last bleeding, he was better than at any time before. In three or four days afterwards he was nearly well, and had no relapse of his complaint.

CASE LXXVI.

A man, aged twenty-seven, was seized in July 1818, with a violent pain and inflammation in the left eye, which discharged water. The eyelids were much swelled, and the pain kept him from sleeping. He was immediately bled from the arm largely, but did not faint. Two days afterwards he was bled again, not being much better from the first bleeding. The inflammation was entirely removed in two days from the last bleeding. Some years ago, he was attacked

in a similar manner in the right eye, owing, as he supposed, to having his hair cut. The pain in this attack was not quite so severe as in the latter. Ten ounces of blood were taken from the arm, but he was not faint; from this he was not much easier. He had two bad nights afterwards. He was then bled again, and lost fourteen ounces, but was not faint. The night following he had a very good night, the next day he was much easier, and in a few days afterwards, the inflammation was entirely removed.

CASE LXXVII.

A man, aged thirty-three, having been subject for twelve months to several slight and some violent inflammations in both eyes, which left him without using any remedies, was seized in December 1818, with a violent pain and inflammation in his left eye, which was soon accompanied with a swelling of the eye-lids. For the first three nights he had no sleep, and was in constant pain in the day time. Of his own accord he used an eye-wash, which did not give him pain on being applied; but after using it, the eye appeared more inflamed and more painful, and the heat was greater. He also took an ounce of salts, and applied a blister behind his

ear. He continued to follow this plan till the fifth day of the disease, when he applied to me. I found the eye extremely inflamed, and there was an opacity on the cornea as large as a pea, but not exactly opposite to the pupil. It had a white opaque appearance, and might be discerned at the distance of several yards. All the other parts of the cornea had a cloudy appearance. Sixteen ounces of blood were immediately taken from his arm, which made him a little faint. His eye became almost immediately easier, and the night following he waked only twice. The next day he was still easier, and better. All the other remedies mentioned in this essay were prescribed. The day following, his eye was still much inflamed, though the pain had abated. Sixteen ounces more of blood were therefore taken from his arm, by which he became again a little faint. Two days afterwards, he was still much better, and could see better, and in another day his sight was much improved; but when he applied first, he could see very little, as every thing appeared cloudy. He was bled from the arm once more, as a good deal of inflammation still remained on the conjunctiva. After this, he mended rapidly. In a fortnight from his first application, the pain and inflammation were entirely gone,

and he could bear the light very well. The thick opaque spot on the cornea was entirely gone, and in its centre was seen a little dent or ulcer on the cornea, but there was no opacity. This in a short time afterwards healed, and he recovered the perfect sight of his eye.

and he could bear the light very well. The thick opaque spot on the cornea was entirely gone and in its place was seen a little dent on which the pupil was seen, but there was no opacity. This in a short time afterwards

CASES
OF
ACUTE INFLAMMATION OF THE EYE,
ATTENDED WITH
A PURULENT DISCHARGE.

CASE LXXVIII.

A Woman, aged forty-six, was attacked with a violent inflammation in the right eye, and in a fortnight afterwards, the other became inflamed also. They continued in an inflamed state for a month, without being very painful, and during this time discharged constantly a thick purulent fluid. At this period she put herself under the care of an eminent oculist. Drops were applied to the eyes thrice a week, and an eye wash was ordered four or five times a day, but no other remedy or plan of cure was directed. She continued upon this plan for five weeks, attending thrice a week, without having any alteration made in the treatment, excepting that the wash was once altered in colour. At the end of this time I first saw her, when she in-

formed me that her eyes were worse than before she commenced this plan. Both eyes were still much inflamed, and she saw objects worse. She could see nothing clearly, but perceived a kind of mist before her eyes. For the last two nights she had been in so much pain, that she had not slept, and the eye lids were full and somewhat swelled. She was immediately bled from the arm, and became a little faint. The blood was inflamed. The day following she was better, and had had a better night. Two days afterwards she was blooded again, but a small quantity only was taken away, as she soon became a little faint. In five days from these bleedings, the inflammation was very much abated, and all pain was gone. In three days more, it was still more abated; but a day or two afterwards, so much inflammation still remained, attended with a hard pulse, as induced me to order her to be bled again. The blood was inflamed, and she again became faint. The day following the eyes were less inflamed, and in ten days more she was perfectly well, and recovered her sight.

CASE LXXIX.

A man, aged forty, was attacked in April 1815, with a violent inflammation in his left eye, attended with considerable pain both in the eye

and head, which often prevented him from sleeping. The upper eye lid was much swelled, and the tunica conjunctiva was very red, and highly inflamed. For the first few days, the eye discharged water, but afterwards thick pus. He continued in this state for a month without having any advice, when he applied to me. For a week previous to his application, he had been unable to work, and could not discern objects. He was immediately ordered to lose twenty-four ounces of blood. He became faint in a quarter of an hour afterwards. Immediately after this he became easier, and opened and shut his eye better. The same night he had no pain, and slept better than for a fortnight before, and the day following he could see much better, and was quite easy. On the third day, he could discern any object, but previous to my seeing him, every thing appeared like a cloud. In a few days more he was perfectly well.

CASE LXXX.

A man, aged twenty-five, was attacked in May 1815, with violent pain and inflammation in the left eye, attended with much swelling in both eye lids. The pain extended to the head, and forehead, and prevented him from sleeping. After the first day, there came on a large puru-

lent discharge. He applied immediately to a lady, who gave him an eye wash which he used every half hour. It gave him much pain, and increased the swelling immediately, so that he could not open his eye. The day following, he applied to a gentleman of the profession at Liverpool, who immediately ordered him to be bled from the arm : a small basin full of blood was taken away, but he did not faint. On the same day, four leeches were applied to the temple. An eye wash was also ordered to be used as often as possible. It did not give him much pain, but it produced a smarting uneasiness. The bleeding and leeches made his eye a little easier, but he did not sleep better, and he was in constant pain night and day. Two or three stools a day were procured by physic, and he was ordered neither to eat meat, nor to drink any thing strong. He continued following this plan for a week, without being bled again, or having the leeches repeated, and during all this time he was no better. On the contrary, at the expiration of this time, it was perceived that the eye was sunk, by the bursting or absorption of the humours. After the eye had undergone this change, an alarm took place for its safety, and eight leeches were applied to the temple on that side. He bled profusely for five hours, and fainted, but he was easier for

the day. He continued taking the medicines for a fortnight longer. At this time an ointment was ordered to be applied every hour, and afterwards another eye wash; but it was too late, the eye having been lost at the end of the first week. I saw this eye three years afterwards; there was a considerable opacity over the whole of the cornea; the sight was quite gone, and the eye much less than the other.

CASE LXXXI.

In the year 1815, a girl, aged eighteen, was attacked with violent pain, inflammation, and swelling of the left eye. In a short time, both eye lids were so much swelled, that they could not be opened to inspect the eye; and the pain was so great, that she could not sleep. For the first week, the discharge from the eye was of a watery kind only; after this, it was purulent, and in a large quantity, which continued so long as the disease remained. Three days after this attack, she applied to an eminent oculist, who immediately applied drops to the eye, and then a powder with an instrument, which caused acute pain for about a quarter of an hour. These applications were repeated three times a week. A black wash was given her to use thrice a day on the intermediate days. Neither leeches, nor bleeding from the arm

were ordered, but a dose of salts was once given in the course of the first week ; and no directions were given concerning her diet. At the end of the first week she was no better. The same plan was continued for a fortnight longer, with the addition of blisters applied twice behind each ear. At the end of this time she was still in the same state. During this period of three weeks, the external applications were regularly used ; and constantly gave her great pain, which continued night and day, with little intermission, all this time. She continued her attendance on this gentleman, with little variation in the treatment, for eight months, at the end of which time, an incurable opacity had formed over the whole of the cornea of this eye, which was flattened and less than natural. In a month after the attack of inflammation on the left eye, the right eye became inflamed, though not to so great a degree as the left eye ; this eye also discharged pus. The same applications were ordered to be used to it by this gentleman, as to the other eye. The inflammation in this eye also continued during the space of seven months, without any apparent amendment. She then went to another eminent oculist, who also applied drops to the eye, which gave her great pain, and then an ointment spread upon lint. He also wrote for a

red ointment to be applied every night. At her second visit, eight leeches were ordered to be applied to the temples. These applications were directed to be continued, but my memorandum does not state for what length of time they were used. When I saw this young woman in the year 1818, she had a tolerable sight of the right eye; but the pupil was large and did not contract.

CASE LXXXII.

A man, aged forty-seven, was suddenly seized in May 1816, with pain and inflammation in both eyes, which was soon attended with a swelling of the eye-lids. The pain extended to the head, prevented him from sleeping, and caused him to be delirious. For the first two days the discharge was watery, but afterwards quite purulent, and in large quantity. Two or three days after the attack, he applied to a public institution, where he was ordered to use an eye-wash thrice a day, which gave him pain. He continued to follow the advice given him for three weeks, during which time he was bled from the arm once, and had two or three leeches applied to the temples every day for the first week, and was ordered a purgative thrice. He was told to abstain from porter, but had no directions about diet. At the end of this period

he was no better, and then applied to an eminent oculist, who ordered him to be cupped, and to have leeches applied to the temples, and to take physic. A collyrium was also ordered to be used three or four times a day, which gave him great pain. After he had followed this plan for a week, a bladder of water formed in the cornea of the left eye, which burst in six weeks; after which, that eye became flat, and he totally lost the sight of it. He has also almost entirely lost the sight of his right eye. There is however no opacity upon the cornea, but some internal mischief.

CASE LXXXIII.

A woman, aged thirty-one, was seized in June 1816, with pain and inflammation in the right eye, from which she had a restless night the first night after the attack. On the day following, the pain became extremely violent, and both eye-lids were so much swelled, that she could not open the eye, and she had no sleep that night. She continued in the same state three days longer, being in constant pain night and day, having used only one leech during this time. On the first day of the attack, the eye discharged water, but the day following a large quantity of purulent matter, which continued till the disease was removed. I saw her on the

fifth day of the disease, and ordered her to be bled from the arm. By mistake she only lost eight ounces of blood, from which she was very little better. Two days afterwards, a pint of blood was taken, from which she fainted, and was soon afterwards much easier, but she passed another bad night. The two following nights however she was much better, the eyes being less painful. So much inflammation, pain, and swelling, were however still left, that it was judged best to take away sixteen ounces more of blood, from which she was not faint. Two days after this, the swelling, inflammation and pain were nearly removed, but the cornea was left so cloudy, that objects were much obscured, and she could scarcely discern any thing. All this however was removed in a fortnight by the efforts of nature only, as she recovered her sight perfectly. It is highly probable, that if this case had been treated by irritating external applications, an incurable opacity of the cornea would have taken place.

CASE LXXXIV.

A boy, aged fourteen, was attacked in July 1816, after going to bed as well as usual, with violent pain in the right eye, which prevented him from sleeping. Next morning his eye-lids were quite swelled up, and he could not open

the eye. For four nights and days he was in constant pain, being unable to get any sleep, and he could get no ease but by lying constantly on his face. At this period of the complaint I saw him. Six ounces of blood were taken from the arm, and three or four leeches were applied to the temple. Calomel and salts, and all the other remedies prescribed in this essay, were directed to be used. On the fifth day from the attack, he was seized with inflammation, attended with great pain, and a swelling of the eye-lids in the other eye. On the sixth day, the right eye discharged a large quantity of purulent matter, which continued till the complaint was removed. The left eye also began to discharge pus, two days after the attack of inflammation. I saw him again, two days after the attack of inflammation on the left eye, and found both eyes in a very dreadful state. The pain was constant, and the swelling of the lids was so great, that even the integuments on the temples and forehead were enlarged and turgid with blood, nor could the eyes be opened. About six ounces more blood were taken from the arm, after which he had a better night, and was easier in the day. Blisters were applied behind his ears, and more leeches to the temples. Two days after the last bleeding, both eyes were still extremely inflamed, and it was impossible to open them, but the tunica con-

junctiva could be discerned to be so much tumified, as to project over the cornea. Fourteen ounces of blood were now taken from his arm, which made him faint. While bleeding, he said he was easier, and when his arm was tied up, he was easier and better than he had been since the attack. The swelling and redness externally were also abated. It should have been remarked, that on the fourth day from the first attack, and on the day following, some one advised him to use an eye wash, which he discontinued afterwards. It is highly probable therefore that this application greatly increased his complaint. Notwithstanding the relief he had obtained by the bleedings, he relapsed in a few days; fresh inflammation took place, but the symptoms were not near so violent as they had been; his pulse was hard, his skin hot, and he was always thirsty, and the pain in the eyes was deep seated, and as he expressed it, as if it would pull his eyes out. Eight ounces of blood were again taken from the arm; he was a little sick, but not faint, and a blister was applied to his back. After this, the left eye was much better, and the right eye less swelled; the edge of the cornea could now be seen, which looked clear. More blood was going to be taken from the arm and temples, but his friends became impatient, and they applied to a woman, who dropped a

solution of alum into his eyes, which gave him great pain. I did not see him for several weeks. There was at this time an opacity over a part of the cornea of both eyes, he could however distinguish objects tolerably well. It is highly probable, that this opacity was produced by the alum water, and that he would have totally lost his sight, had this remedy been applied in the early stage of the complaint, and before the use of evacuations. The symptoms in this case were more violent than in any I ever saw.

CASE LXXXV.

A man, aged twenty-two, was attacked in March, 1817, with a violent pain in the left eye. On the following evening, the eye was closed by a swelling of the eye-lids, purulent matter was discharged in large quantities, and the pain prevented him from sleeping. The day following he was worse; the eye lids were even more swelled, and externally were very turgid with blood vessels, and the eye could not be seen. He had another bad night. No application or remedy of any kind had been used. Sixteen ounces of blood were taken from his arm, by which he was a little faint, and a dose of salts with calomel were immediately ordered to be taken. The same evening he had a good night, and slept five hours, and the following

day, the swelling was very much abated. The eye lids could now be opened, and the eye was found perfectly safe. The tunica conjunctiva was still however very much inflamed. Ten ounces more blood were taken from the arm, after which, he recovered in a few days.

CASE LXXXVI.

A man, aged twenty-eight, after being affected for about a fortnight, with a slight inflammation of the right eye, was suddenly seized in September 1818, with a violent pain in it, attended with great inflammation of the eye and eye lids. The eye lids soon afterwards were puffed up, and prominent, so that he could not open them, nor could he discern any light, except when they were lifted up by the fingers. When this was done, the tunica conjunctiva was found to be swelled, and highly inflamed. The pain was not so great in this case as in many others, as he was not altogether deprived of sleep. After this complaint had continued for four or five days in the right eye, he was seized with the same complaint in the left eye, and in a short time, this eye also was as much swelled and inflamed as the other. In two days after the attack, each eye discharged a large quantity of pus, which continued as long as the complaint lasted. In a week after

the attack, I saw him, and found that no remedy had been used. He was bled from the arm four times within ten days, and leeches were applied to the temples. My memorandum does not mention what quantity of blood was taken at each time, or whether a syncope was produced. Upon this plan however, joined to a strict observance of all the other remedies pointed out in this essay, he was perfectly cured in a fortnight.

CASE LXXXVII.

A girl, aged eleven years, was seized in March 1818, with a violent inflammation in both eyes, attended with great fulness of the eye lids. In a day or two after the attack, they discharged a large quantity of purulent matter, which continued while the complaint lasted. Soon after the disease commenced, application was made to an eminent oculist, who himself applied a strong eye wash, which gave her great pain, after which she was worse than before. Another eye wash was also ordered to be used three or four times a day. This plan was continued near three months, during which time, one leech and a blister were applied to one of the temples. No purgative was ordered, nor were any directions given about diet. At this period I saw her. The right

eye was better than at the commencement of the attack, but it was still inflamed. The left eye was much worse, and was so painful, and so much inflamed, that I could not open the lids so as to inspect the eye. She was bled from the arm, by which she became a little faint. Immediately afterwards, she was in less pain, and opened her eye better, and slept more soundly than before. By discontinuing the eye washes, and following the plan here laid down, the inflammation in both eyes gradually subsided, and in a month, she was nearly well.

FINIS.