mosa in doses of 15 drops once in six hours, and increase two drops at a dose, until it produces considerable vertigo.

August 16. Rapidly improving—is now able to labor some; muscular strength increasing, and to appearance is nearly well, except a slight cough, which is diminishing. Lay aside the assafœtida and pl. anodi. Continue the actæa racemosa and quinine.

Sept. 2. My patient called on me to-day, and expresses himself as quite well—has rode a distance of seven miles on horseback, and appears quite pleased to be able to do so. Of course must feel well in order to be able to ride 14 miles on horseback, for that would be the distance from his house to my place, including the return. The actæa racemosa is only continued.

Should this patient hereafter suffer from repeated attacks while under my care, it will be communicated for publication; and the result, whatever it may be, carefully noted down.

October 3d, 1836.

A NEW APPLICATION IN CHRONIC PURULENT OPHTHALMIA ATTENDED WITH GRANULATED LIDS.

BY EDWARD J. DAVENPORT, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

ANN BRADLEE, aged 36, applied for advice Aug. 28, 1836, for a chronic conjunctivitis of both eyes of two weeks standing. The present inflammation commenced in the left eye, with heat, itching, and swelling of the eye-lids, accompanied with a profuse discharge of purulent matter of a yellow color, and mixed with hot scalding tears. The right eye became affected, though in a slight degree, in the course of two or three days afterwards. There had been also severe pain of forehead, with a sense of stricture, aggravated towards night and remitting in the morning. There was the usual intolerance of light, but not excessive. The inflammatory symptoms were preceded by a sensation as of a stick, or some foreign substance, in the eyes, and this, it should be observed, is a peculiar characteristic of conjunctival inflammation. Upon examination, the sclerotic conjunctiva was found to be highly injected, the vessels being superficial, and forming a vascular net-work of a florid red color. But the palpebral conjunctiva exhibited the most striking evidence of the purulent character of the disease, this membrane being its true seat. Here the conjunctiva was of a dark red color, villous, much thickened, and covered, especially where it is reflected over the upper lid, with granulations, consisting, however, not of the true product of an ulcerated surface, but of acini or mucous glands, greatly enlarged and firmer than natural. The semilunar fold of conjunctiva, situated at the internal canthus of the eye, was much increased in size, and highly vascular. It seemed to extend itself into a fold or roll of membrane, filling up entirely the salcus, formed at the point where the conjunctiva is reflected from the globe to pass over the lower eyelid. This was most readily seen by

everting the lower lid, when the fold was observed like a fungous excrescence protruding from the eye. Notwithstanding the great amount of disease, the cornea retained its integrity and transparency unimpaired, nor was the power of vision at all diminished. A slight dimness or haziness of vision occurred, however, at times, from the collection of the morbid secretion of the lids upon the surface of the cornea, but this was merely temporary. The lids externally were swollen, the inflammation forming a red circle or areola around each eye. The granulated state of the lids above mentioned, was not the result of the present attack of ophthalmia, but was the consequence of a previous attack that occurred three or four months since, which had left the eyes in a weak and irritable state, predisposed to renewed inflammation from any exposure or indiscretion on the part of the patient. The cause of the original attack was supposed by the patient to have been "a cold," but the eyes had been weakened by long-continued application to needle-work.

To relieve the overcharged and crowded condition of the bloodvessels of the eyes, 12 oz. of blood was taken by cups from the back of the neck, immediately after which the lower eye-lids were freely scarified; by which means the conjunctiva became considerably paler. The patient was directed to take daily two oz. of the following mixture, and to repeat the same every 3d hour until free cathartic operation was induced; viz. *R. magnes. sulphat. 3ij. antim. tartarisat. gr. iv. aq. comm. 3viij. M.* The eyes to be kept covered with linen constantly wet in equal parts of diluted alcohol and water, and the diet to be light and simple.

On the 3d day after commencing this treatment, the sclerotic conjunctiva was found to be much less vascular, the head and eyes free from pain, and the inflammatory symptoms generally diminished. Everting the eye-lids, and wiping the lining membrane dry with a bit of soft rag, a solution of the sulphate of zinc, of the strength of 24 grs. to 1 ounce, was applied to the surface freely with a camel's hair pencil, care being taken not to apply it upon the eye itself. A few leeches were directed to be applied to the temples, and the daily cathartic and cold lotion to be continued.

At the 3d visit, a still further improvement in the state of the eyes was manifested. The application of the zinc was repeated, and a blister applied to the nape of the neck. A weak solution of the oxymuriate of mercury in distilled water (one gr. to ten oz.), was directed at the first visit, to be injected lukewarm into the eyes, for the double purpose of promoting cleanliness and of gradually diminishing the discharge.

At the 4th visit, on the 9th day, the inflammation was confined chiefly to the lining membrane of the eye-lids, and the zinc was continued as before.

13th day. The patient reported that her eyes were better than they had been at any time since the commencement of the first attack. The granulations were diminished in size, and the lids were much smoother and less swollen than before. There is little or no purulent discharge, and the patient can bear a moderate degree of light without inconvenience. Requests leave to resume her work. The zinc was directed to

be applied twice each week, and a weak solution of the same to be dropped into the eyes several times each day.

18th day. Patient was allowed to discontinue all treatment, excepting the daily application of a collyrium of a weak solution of the sulphate of zinc. Is able to return to her usual occupations.

The zinc acts in the cure of chronic purulent ophthalmia, of which the granulated state of the lids is merely a consequence and not the disease itself, as it does in gonorrhœa and other analogous diseases of mucous membranes, by its astringent properties. Of course it is more particularly applicable to recent cases of granulated lids, where the mucous membrane is soft and spongy. It should not be applied until after the removal of all inflammation of the eye-ball, by the proper means. The advantages of zinc over escharotics, are briefly these: it causes less pain at the time and subsequent to the application; it is not followed by the inflammation of the eye-ball, common after the use of the nitrate of silver, sulphate of copper, &c. and never occasions ulcerations and consequent cicatrices of the eye-lids, which are too apt to occur after the use of caustics, and presenting when they do occur a very serious and permanent source of irritation. In those cases of purulent ophthalmia, by no means of rare occurrence, in which, after the subsidence of the acute stage, the palpebral conjunctiva is left in a lax and flabby state, with the mucous glands enlarged and pouring forth a gleety and surperabundant secretion, the application of a strong solution of zinc daily or on alternate days, will have a most beneficial effect. In other cases, it will answer by way of a change, a consideration of no trifling importance in obstinate diseases, where remedies, however appropriate, will by degrees wear themselves out, and require to be replaced by new ones.

As soon as leisure permits, reports of some similar cases will be presented, containing farther evidence of the beneficial results of this plan of treatment.

Boston, Sept. 1836.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE VACCINE VIRUS ON SCROFULA.

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M. C. ADRIEN, in a dissertation on scrofula, endeavors to show, by a number of observations, the effect which vaccination has upon this terrible malady. We will quote from the author the paragraph in which he explains his method of treatment.

“Up to the present time, vaccination, almost exclusively employed for smallpox, has been excluded from the treatment of other diseases. Practitioners have indeed remarked that a large number of chronic affections have been cured while the system was under the influence of the vaccine virus; but none of them for a moment have thought of employing vaccination as a therapeutic agent in any of them. Their experience had indeed demonstrated the specific action of