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CASE OF GLAUCOMA; RELIEVED BY IRIDECTOMY.

[Read before the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, December 22d, 1862, and communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

BY HENRY W. WILLIAMS, M.D.

A SHORT time since, I made to this Society a brief report of a case of acute glaucoma, in which complete restoration of vision was obtained by the performance of iridectomy. The disease being comparatively rare, but, when it occurs, so very rapid in its course, and so hopelessly destructive if not at once arrested by surgical interference, I feel it important to call attention to another instance where the results of the operation, in a most violent attack, were equally satisfactory.

A lady beyond the middle period of life had, during the last summer, been subjected to harassing fatigues and emotions, arising from the sudden death of friends, and her health, usually exceedingly good, had perhaps suffered, in some degree, from these depressing causes.

About the middle of October, while walking, she was suddenly attacked with severe pain, accompanied by almost total loss of vision, in the right eye. The pain was, however, thought to be neuralgic, and the loss of sight was attributed to the same cause, the patient supposing that restoration of vision would ensue upon the subsidence of the pain; but, as the symptoms persisted, I was asked to see her on the 18th of October, four days after their invasion.

The circum-corneal zone was much injected, with a few enlarged vessels running tortuously upon the globe and penetrating the sclerótica. The pupil was considerably dilated; appearing as if forced open by pressure of the lens forward against the iris. The field of the pupil had a turbid aspect. The iris was apparently little changed in color or condition. The globe was evidently harder than natural, when pressure was made upon it through the lid. Pain continued to be felt in and around the eye. The patient could only perceive the largest objects, and those indistinctly.

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The symptoms of glaucoma being unmistakable, I advised that an operation should be at once submitted to.

Ether was administered, and, with the assistance of Dr. Hay, I opened the cornea at its upper edge and removed a segment of the iris.

The operation was followed by immediate relief of pain, and the amelioration of the other symptoms, though somewhat slow, was uninterrupted in its progress.

On testing her sight, on the 18th of December, two months after the iridectomy, I found her able to read a fine newspaper print, without glasses, with this eye; though she had worn glasses for many years (having been compelled to have recourse to them at the age of 35), and still required them for the other eye.

The segment of iris having been taken from its upper portion, all deformity, and all dazzling of the eye from excess of light, are avoided; the artificial enlargement of the pupil being covered by the upper lid, which is an immense advantage to the patient.

I take the opportunity to state, that the patient referred to at the beginning of this communication, continues to enjoy perfect vision—eight months having elapsed since the operation was performed.

THE RECENT OPHTHALMOLOGICAL CONGRESS IN PARIS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY HASKET DERRY, M.D.

[THE following brief account of the recent Ophthalmological Congress in Paris, written by the distinguished gentleman selected to preside over its deliberations, may not be without interest to the members of the profession in general.]

PARIS, OCTOBER.

You remind me of my promise to give you some account of the Ophthalmological Congress which held its sessions in Paris from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3. It was certainly rather incautious of me to enter into such an engagement, but I will endeavor to fulfil it as briefly as possible. I cannot dwell on scientific details, inasmuch as the columns of the ———, so much in demand for other purposes, would hardly contain even a summary of the doings of the Congress. I must accordingly content myself with giving you, as far as possible, a glance at the general physiognomy of the assemblage.

We numbered one hundred and fifty—all the noted oculists of Europe and even of the Western Continent were present, and most governments had deputed special representatives. The delegation from your own country was especially notable. By the side of Graefe—the grand master of science—shone Ruete and Coccius from Leipsic, Arit and Gulz from Vienna, and many others whose names do not occur to me at this moment, albeit all deservedly re-