

was all that was required, stretching would have been enough for that purpose.

Mr. Barwell spoke of a soldier, the subject of epilepsy, whose arm had been amputated, but at the extremity of the stump the nerves had formed swollen masses. These were removed, the nerves stretched, and no more epileptic fits ensued.

Mr. T. Smith said that if the pain was relieved by chloral and bromide of potassium, would it not have been better to trust to these for a time on the chance of the disease wearing itself out, especially as there seemed to be no permanent shortening of the muscles. Mental emotions had a strong influence in such cases, as was shown in one under his care, where the subcutaneous injection of water sufficed to cure the patient.

Sir James Paget, who had seen Mr. Watson's case, was quite certain that no injection of water would have cured such a patient. Here there was absolute shortening of the muscles, which commonly ended in fixation. The spasm was undoubtedly mainly reflex in its character, and in such cases the division of nerves was of the highest importance; but often section of the nerves was not enough. In a case which had come under his notice there had been fracture of the radius; distortion followed, and finally almost fixation. Section of the nerve did good for a time, but the spasms began to return. Then followed fracture of the opposite radius, and the symptoms began to resemble those which had followed the accident on the other side; but forcible and really painful fixation on splints did much good. Here, too, section of the nerve was most useful.

OPHTHALMOLOGY.

38. *Prelachrymal Oily Cysts*.—Under this designation Prof. VERNEUIL recently brought before the Société de Chirurgie (*L'Union Méd.*, January 6) a pathological condition which, he believes, has not been described by writers on affections of the eye. By a curious coincidence, he has met with three examples within a few years. The first of these occurred in 1874, in a young man who had a cyst at the inner angle of the eye, of the size of a cherry-stone, placed in front of the lachrymal sac. It had been there a very long time, and was indolent, colorless, and irreducible. M. Verneuil, believing it to be a tumour of the sac, punctured it, and drew off the contents by a Pravaz syringe, and was much astonished to find that the liquid withdrawn had all the appearance of olive oil, which also it resembled in chemical characters. The tumour disappeared, and the patient quitted the hospital at once and did not return.

In 1875 a young girl, aged nineteen, was brought to him for the purpose of having a tumour removed from the angle of the eye, which, she said, she had had from childhood, but which had increased much of late. It was placed a little above the lachrymal sac, was very hard, and of the size of an ordinary cherry, greatly distending the skin that covered it. M. Verneuil, believing that he had to do with a congenital cyst of the orbit, made an incision with the intention of cauterizing its wall. Hardly had the bistoury penetrated, when there issued a filiform jet of what looked just like oil, about a gramme of which was caught in a watch-glass, but was afterwards lost. Enucleation was sought to be practised; but, owing to the firm adhesions to deep-seated parts, only about two-thirds could be removed. In this crystals of cholesterine and margaric acid were detected.

A third case presented itself last November, in the person of a man, aged twenty-one, who had a tumour the size of an almond, which occupied the whole of the inner angle of the orbit. The skin was extremely distended and transparent. It had existed from early infancy, and was now very firm and resisting, being deeply attached to the subjacent parts, and possessed of no real mobility. It was quite indolent, and never had caused any disturbance of vision or obstruction to the flow of tears. A puncture practised by Dieulafoy's

aspirator allowed about two grammes and a half of a liquid exactly like olive oil to be collected, the tumour immediately subsiding after its evacuation. During the two days the man remained in the hospital, no reproduction of the liquid took place. M. Perrin stated that he had met with two such cases, the evacuation sufficing for their cure. M. Le Dentu said that he also had met with such a case in an infant.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Feb. 10, 1877.

39. *Primary Lupous Disease of the Conjunctiva*.—Dr. NEUMANN, at a recent meeting of the Imperial Royal Medical Society of Vienna, said that the phenomenon of lupous disease of the conjunctiva consisted at first in proliferations, bleeding on the slightest touch. After existing some time they produced shrinking of the cornea, through the formation of meshes and fibres of connective tissue in them. The morbid process commenced in the ocular as well as on the palpebral conjunctiva; it was more frequent on the lower eyelid than on the upper. The rarity of the disease was shown by the fact that Dr. Neumann has been able to find records of only four cases, published by Dr. Arlt and Dr. Sattler. In a case recently observed by Dr. Neumann, the patient was a girl who, in 1871, suffered from frequent stillitidium lacrymarum. Shortly afterwards swelling and redness of the eyelids, and fungous growth from the conjunctiva, set in. Dr. Rabl removed the fungosity and applied afterwards nitrate of silver. In spite of treatment, however, the destruction of the conjunctiva became very extensive. Three years later lupus appeared on the nose, and was cured by the application of nitrate of silver. The changes in the eye were the following: The upper eyelid was much swollen, and showed a cicatricial contraction; the eyelashes were wanting. There was symblepharon of both the upper and lower lids; and a deep depression was visible on the cornea. The patient had only a quantitative perception of light, and had some pain in moving the eyes. Dr. Neumann exhibited microscopic preparations of the disease taken from the conjunctiva. They showed a remarkable enlargement of the papillæ, epithelium proliferating on and between them, and the characteristic fine network and cellular infiltration, enormous vascularity, and finally, the presence of giant-cells in the lupous growths. The latter (giant-cells) have also been lately observed by Dr. Laskiewitz, in inflammatory proliferations of the conjunctiva. Dr. Hebra related two cases of lupus of the eyelids that had come under his observation, in which also there was lupus of the skin. In both cases a cure was effected by the application of solid nitrate of silver. In one the patient came again under notice on account of a return of the disease in the skin—the eye, after a lapse of ten years, remaining unaffected.—*London Med. Record*, Jan 15, 1877.

40. *Changes of the Ciliary Processes during Accommodation*.—Prof. J. HJORT, of Christiania, narrates (*Nordiskt Medicinskt Arkiv.*, 8 Bd. No. 17) the case of a workman who was severely injured by an explosion of dynamite. In addition to his other injuries, there was also a complete absence of the iris of the right eye. The only other lesion to be perceived in the eye was a vertical wound of the cornea about 3 mm. in length. The lens remained in its normal position, the zonula of Zinn was intact, and the vitreous transparent. Vision soon became perfect. The ciliary processes could be seen very distinctly with oblique light, with the ophthalmoscope, and still better with Brücke's lamp under oblique illumination. The latter rendered it easy to study the relations of the ciliary processes during accommodation, and also their changes after the instillation of calabar extract. The results of these observations are, that, by the act of accommodation or the contraction provoked by the calabar:

- 1st. The dark margin of the lens became broader.
- 2d. The ciliary processes approached the axis of the eye and became swollen.
- 3d. The distance between the margin of the lens and the ends of the ciliary processes (the zonular space of our author) did not appear to suffer any change.
- 4th. The changes observed did not occur instantly, but acquired a very appreciable time, though not very long. The relaxation of the accommodation also occurred gradually.