

OPHTHALMOLOGY.

56. *Chloride of Sodium in diseases of the Eye.*—In a report (see No. for Aug. 1840) of cases treated in Wills' Hospital by the editor of this journal, he recommends in certain conditions of the conjunctiva, as a useful application, a saturated solution of common table salt. This remedy has since been employed by others, and with favourable results.

M. TAVIGNOT has recently made extensive use of this substance, as a local application, in different forms of inflammation of the eye, and more particularly, in ulcerations of the cornea, and recommends it as being not only as efficacious, but even more so than nitrate of silver, and other substances commonly applied in such cases. At the same time, it is less likely to produce permanent irritation, or act as an escharotic. He has employed it, *1st*, In the *solid* form. The crystals of common salt are ill adapted for this purpose, from their want of cohesion; but with a little practice a piece may be obtained capable of being filled into a caustic-holder, and used in the same manner. Another way of applying the substance, is in the form of a fine powder introduced into the eye; its action will then become prolonged, and as a consequence, be more energetic. This, however, might be an advantage in various cases, not readily yielding to other modes of treatment, as for example, purulent ophthalmia. As compared with the nitrate of silver, or sulphate of copper, the use of the chloride of sodium in the solid form, is preferable, because there is no danger, as with these substances, of its destroying the tissues, its action being merely irritant. The application of chloride of sodium causes pretty smart pain at the instant, but this soon subsides. *2d*, In the form of *ointment*. This may be made in the proportions of from 1 to 4 drachms of powdered common salt, to the ounce of lard. It is best to begin with the weakest form, and afterwards gradually to augment its strength. In granular conjunctivitis, and inflammation of the ciliary margins,—affections, it is well known, of a very obstinate character,—it has been of signal benefit. *3d*, As a *collyrium*. This is the best form of using the application. Several cases are given of its success in ophthalmia, and ulcerations of the cornea. The strength of the solution may vary from 1 to 3 drachms to the ounce of water. One drachm to the ounce will be found sufficiently strong for most slight cases.—*L'Experience*, Dec. 1843.

57. *Cyanide of Zinc in Ulcers and Opacities of the Cornea.* M. CABRIER is of opinion that preparations of hydrocyanic acid have great efficacy in promoting cicatrization of ulcers of the cornea and the removal of opacities. The compound he prefers is the cyanide of zinc, in the form of ointment, in the proportion of 1 part of the salt to 25 of lard.—*Boucharde's Annuaire de Thérapeutique*, 1844.

58. *Conical Cornea.*—Dr. JAMES H. PICKFORD relates, in the *Dublin Journal of Med. Sci.*, some cases of conical cornea successfully treated by the administration of an emeto-purgative, at first daily, and then once or twice a week. He uses the sulphate of zinc with sulphate of magnesia.

The efficacy of this treatment we conceive needs confirmation.

MIDWIFERY.

59. *Signs of Pregnancy.*—The changes in the condition of the os and cervix uteri during pregnancy have been investigated by MM. Filugelli, Chailly, and Cazeaux. The results they have arrived at agree on the whole with those of Birnbaum. M. Filugelli, indeed, appears to have fallen into the error of ima-