

culture medium and pass it on to any other toes, presenting a vulnerable point of contact. Since the discovery of the leprosy bacillus, which seems to destroy by a slow but sure and enormous accumulation in the tissues, can anyone doubt that the disease is inoculable like syphilis and tubercle, though taking longer to develop symptoms? One of our first cares should therefore be to insist upon lepers ceasing to go barefooted, and to take care that those about them neither go barefooted nor wear sandals which may become common property like slippers or clogs in a Turkish bath. We must remember that leprosy may not show itself for years after it has been contracted, hence the difficulty of tracing the time of the occurrence of inoculation and the instrument which brought it about.

GRAPE JUICE.

In the *Gazette Hebdomadaire de Med. et de Chir.* an article has appeared on the action of grape juice upon the organism. The grape is composed of various constituents which give it its value in the so-called grape cure: water, grape-sugar, cream of tartar, tartaric and malic acids, albuminoids, various minerals (as potassium salts, lime, magnesia, oxides of iron and manganese, silicium and alumina) and certain acids — phosphoric, sulphuric, and nitric. There are also traces of chlorides and a small quantity of soda and phosphates. The seeds contain tannin. Grape juice, from its constituents, is a veritable natural mineral water. In taking the grape-juice cure the quantity at first taken is small and is gradually increased, the length of treatment being from three to six weeks. Walking and exercise in the open air assist very much in bringing about good results during the time of this cure. The general health is improved, the appetite is increased, and the digestive functions are greatly improved. The patient usually puts on flesh. The "cure" is especially indicated in affections of the digestive organs, visceral congestions, ascites, jaundice, hepatic calculi, diarrhoea, habitual constipation, in certain skin troubles, and in neurasthenia. Pulmonary tuberculosis is said to be benefited (we should think the fresh air and exercise were more responsible for any improvement than grapes), but the intestines must be in good condition. It is contra-indicated only in persons who are too fat or who have a tendency to become so, and during the period of menstruation.

Nursing of Diseases of the Eye.

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GLAUCOMA.

An acute attack such as has been described may come on suddenly without previous warning, but there is usually a space preceding in which slight failure of vision, especially at night, has been noticed. Often the sufferers tell of "rainbows" seen round lights, and this symptom should always lead us to be suspicious of the possible presence of glaucoma. The haloes are due to slight haze of the cornea, in this instance caused by oedema of the corneal tissues.

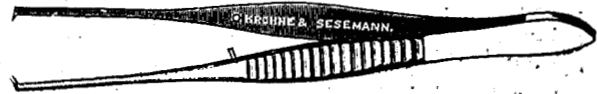
Not all haloes are due to glaucoma; they often have a much less serious cause, but the symptom is an important one and not to be disregarded. These prodromal warnings are always relieved by sleep.

The acute attack needs speedy interference to reopen the channels of excretion, and an iridectomy is urgently called for, which, by removing part of the base of the iris, frees the filtration angle, and the spaces of Fontana from any possibility of mechanical obstruction.

In the operation are required the following instruments:—Speculum, fixation forceps (two pairs), knife (either a keratome or Von Graefe's cataract knife), iris forceps, scissors, and spatula. The two



IRIS FORCEPS.



FIXATION FORCEPS.



VON GRAEFE'S KNIFE.

pairs of fixation forceps are required for the following reason: The operation cannot be performed under cocaine, because the drug is not absorbed when the tension is raised, and no anaesthesia is produced. Chloroform or ether, therefore, is necessary. The eye has therefore to be controlled throughout by an assistant. It is impossible often to rotate the eye sufficiently downwards to allow the surgeon room at the top of the cornea without a second pair of forceps. It has been pointed out (and a glance at a diagrammatic section of the eye will verify the statement) that it is the iris-base which is especially concerned in the production of blocking at the filtration angle. This lies behind the sclerotic. The surgeon will therefore make his incision in its whole extent well outside the corneal limb.

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