

Ophthalmia in all its forms, whether it be congenital, catarrhal, or purulent, is always infective, and the nurse must be very careful to disinfect her hands after attending to or touching the patient and his bedclothes. The result of ophthalmia is frequently what is called *trachauima* or *granulations*. When trachauima becomes chronic these granulations suppurate and are very painful, and when this is allowed to continue, the eyelids draw up, contract, and give the eyes a screwed-up appearance.

If this is allowed to go on, the terrible and disfiguring disease called *trichiasis* (from the Greek, meaning hair) follows. At this stage the eyelashes turn inwards towards the eye, causing the most irritating pain by the hairs constantly pricking into the eye and cornea, frequently causing loss of sight.

The first stages of trachauima are first treated by turning the upper eyelid over (it is very unusual for the lower lid to be affected) and burning the little granulations with nitrate of silver.

When the eyelid is more seriously affected, a slight operation is inevitable, and as it is attended by much bleeding, preparation must be made for it, and in the case of a female patient the hair must be tucked away under an oil-silk cap and the ears plugged with cotton wool.

Von Graefe, a well-known German oculist, has invented an instrument to scrape these granulations, but I know several oculists who prefer the more ordinary method—that of using a *toothbrush*.

Before use, the toothbrush must be well washed in soap and warm water, and then placed in methylated spirits. It can then be used again.

The eyelid is turned over and held with a clip by the left hand, a few incisions are made, and then the toothbrush is used *vigorously*, thus scraping away the granulations and drawing away the pus and blood from the conjunctiva.

The eyelid is then well washed with *warm* sterilised water and well rubbed with *gauze swabs*, in preference to cotton wool, the patient usually feeling immediate relief.

When the patient returns to his bed the eyelids should be cleansed frequently, the eyelids being turned over and all clots removed, after which warm fomentations or compresses are placed over the eye.

In a few days the oculist will probably order the eyelids to be rubbed with a strong solution of sublimate of mercury, but great care must be taken not to drop it on the eye, and before the eyelid is turned back, to wash it with pure sterilised water.

(To be continued.)

At a meeting at the Mansion House last Tuesday of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund, the Lord Mayor announced the offer of a cheque for £10,000 from Mr. George Herring, or an addition of 5s. to each pound collected on Hospital Sunday. The latter offer was accepted.

The Hygiene of the Home.

By A. J. BACON.

(Concluded from page 334.)

There is a purely speculative aspect of our subject, not without interest, but upon which it would be impossible to speak with authority. In argument, analogy always counts for something, and this at least is afforded by the following personal reminiscence. When quite a lad, the writer during several years ardently "went in for the study of entomology," *i.e.*, he used to run about the fields, woods, and downs, catching butterflies and moths to mount as specimens in glass-covered boxes. Whether the pursuit was commendable or had any practical value beyond the fact that it took him much into the air is very open to doubt. In connection with this hobby, he was also wont to collect the eggs and caterpillars of these insects, and from these breed the perfect imago. The larvæ were kept in flower-pots, half filled with earth, over which a muslin bag was tied and kept in a distended position by means of pieces of bent cane, the two ends of which were pressed into the earth. These caterpillar cages were kept in a half-lit space beneath the stone entrance steps to the house, where it was perfectly dry, and neither wind nor sun could reach. Fresh leaves of the proper kind were supplied at least four times daily for the prisoners' food, and in due time, after passing through several skins, each of a larger size, the larvae turned into pupæ, and eventually into butterfly or moth. But here comes the point, which affords us food for thought. These specimens were invariably much smaller in size than those caught in the open, and therefore bred without human interference. When mounted, they would measure only two-thirds each way what the free-bred insect did! Hence, the outstretched wing-surface was only four-ninths of what it should have been, or *less than half!* Feeding on the living leaf, breathing God's pure air, buffeted by His winds, and bathed in His sunshine, these little insects acquired twice the size of their fellows confined beneath the gauze (Sir Humphrey Davy long since proved to us how little air will pass through its fine mesh by his miner's lamp), deprived of the sun's rays and fed only on freshly-plucked food.

The curious fact forces a wonder whether the insalubrious condition of the average home has not also a direct and pernicious influence upon man's physical development, whether, in fact, he is not thereby stunted in growth. Whether the case or not, it is certain that the giant, who is now astonishing London with his size, is not a Briton, but hails from a region where civilisation is little better than a name.

The need of plenty of air was well understood by the ancients. Whenever they gathered in vast crowds, they did so in the open. No Albert or

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