

recovered patients and of visitors to patients, and that 28 new ambulances be procured.

**ALCOHOL IN MEDICINE.**

"Tempora mutantur" is a saying both trite and true, and in few matters has its application been more significant of late years than in the attitude of the medical profession towards the use of alcohol. No reasonable man can allege that the consumption of alcohol is never useful, nor will anyone deny that its abuse is the curse of this country. But the physician and the surgeon are becoming more and more alive to the fact that alcohol as a drug is and has been much over-rated. In these days of fanatical intemperance upon most questions, it is of increasing importance that scientific men should evince not only an open, but a rigidly impartial, mind. The Archbishop of Canterbury has for many years been one of the most prominent teetotalers in the kingdom, and has consistently advocated the total abstinence from alcohol which he practices. Quite recently he made a speech at the Temperance Hospital in which he, very naturally, mentioned the position of doctor and patient in respect to the use of alcohol. He said that if under a trusted adviser he was ordered alcohol as a medicine, he did not go so far as to say that he would refuse it. If he could not trust his physician he would call in another. But the profession does not now say that health cannot be restored without alcohol, and does not object to total abstinence. This is fair and just. Undoubtedly there are times at which alcohol may be of great use, but it is permissible to argue that they are few and far between. The use, or rather the abuse of alcohol in fevers, was recently discussed in a paper by an unbiassed writer of considerable experience. Alcohol is both a food and a stimulant, and as such, it has been used in the treatment of disease. But it is now well understood not only that there are other foods and other stimulants which are better, but which will do their work with greater efficiency and without throwing extra stress upon organs which have already more than enough to do without adding to their burden. We welcome therefore the information that the coming Session will see the Government deal with the Temperance question, and propose a form of legislation which it is hoped may do much to decrease the terrible degradation which results from our great national bill of drunkenness.

**Nursing of Diseases of the Eye.**

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Behind the iris and supporting it is the lens in its capsule. The lens is made up of a large number of elongated epithelial cells having a definite and regular arrangement—in segments and layers—so that the whole is as symmetrical as possible. The curvature of the anterior surface is less marked than the posterior.

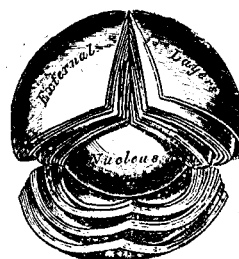


Diagram of Lens.

The capsule appears structureless, and is probably a cuticular secretion of the external cells. The lens, its ligament and capsule, divide the cavity into two parts, the chamber of the aqueous humour, and the chamber of the vitreous. The iris, it will be seen at once, partially divides the aqueous chamber and the region in front of the iris is known as the anterior chamber; that between the iris and lens as the posterior chamber. There is practically no posterior chamber. The aqueous humour is almost pure water. Behind the lens is the vitreous humour—a jelly-like tissue of very perfect transparency. Between the vitreous and the choroid is found the retina. This is the percipient region of the eye. In a perfect eye the image of the outside world, formed by the refractive media, is thrown on the retina just as the image is formed in a camera on the sensitive plate. Though thin it has a very complex structure in the greater part of the globe, where the sensory nerve endings are. The nerve fibres of the retina run to the optic disc, and then pierce the sclerotic, forming the optic nerve. At the optic disc, and at the margin of the sensitive portion, the ora serrata, only, is the retina, attached to the underlying structures. Elsewhere it is retained in position against the choroid solely by the pressure of the vitreous. The retina is nourished partly by the vascular choroid, partly by the special artery of the retina, which enters the eye with the optic nerve. The eye is protected by two folds, the eyelids—these, originally ridges of skin, have become much modified to form movable screens to the eye—and their inner surface, in common with the skin

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