

TREPHINE OPERATION FOR GLAUCOMA.

BY SISTER RAY THOMAS.

Preparation of Patient on arrival at Theatre.

One drop of cocaine 4 per cent., adrenalin 1-1,000, and eserine 1 per cent., instilled into the operating eye, and continued at three minute intervals for 15 minutes.

The lids and surrounding area are then swabbed with iodine in spirit, and the eye irrigated with hydrag-oxycyanide, 1-8,000.

The head and chest are covered with sterile towels.

Operation.

A speculum is inserted, and the patient is asked to look downwards. The conjunctiva is raised from the sclera about 12 millimeters from the limbus with a conjunctival forceps, and a conjunctival flap dissected with a sharp pointed conjunctival scissors to the corneal margin. The conjunctival flap is then everted over the cornea, and held with straight Iris forceps, and with a Took's knife the incision is carried forward into the cornea for about 2 millimeters.

A 1.5 millimeter trephine is placed on the corneal scleral junction, and with a few circular movements, with light pressure, a disc is cut. Aqueous escapes, and the iris is drawn up to the trephine wound. The disc remains attached on one side, and the iris protrudes through the trephine hole.

The iris is then grasped with a pair of Laing's or Barriquer's iris forceps, and a peripheral iridectomy is made with a De Wecker's iridectomy scissors. The disc is grasped with Elliot's disc forceps and cut with Elliot's disc scissors. The iris is freed from the wound with an iris reposer, and the conjunctival flap is replaced over the wound, and sutured in position with fine black silk on No. 4 needle.

After the operation, guttae atropin 1 per cent., and penicillin 2,500 units per c.c. are instilled, and the eye dressed with tulle gras, sterile pad, and roller bandage.

The patient is taken back on a trolley to the ward.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE—TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP.

We have been requested by the Ministry of Health to publish a written answer given to a Parliamentary Question by the Minister of Health on January 29th, by which it is hoped to contradict rumours which have been current in the Hospital World.

MR. ATTEWELL (Lab., Harborough) asked the Minister of Health, whether membership of a trade union will be required as a condition of employment in the National Health Service; and whether existing professional bodies will have representation in the machinery for the negotiation of remuneration and conditions of service.

MR. BEVAN: No, Sir. I hope that persons employed in the National Health Service will be encouraged to belong to their appropriate organisations, but it will not be a condition of employment, and there will be no pressure upon anyone to belong to any organisation, whether professional or trade union. With regard to the second part of the question, arrangements for setting up Whitley machinery in the National Health Service are well advanced and, for a large part of it, provisional employees' sides have already been set up. No fewer than 25 professional organisations are represented on these sides, and there is no truth in the suggestion that such organisations will not have representation as appropriate.

BEAUTY.

We should always see the beauty in all things—the simplest things as a rule portray the greatest beauty when defined in the proper prospective, for example:—

One day, on a holiday in Switzerland, some people were standing on the lower slopes of a mountain.

The beauty was breath-taking. The slopes were covered with blue gentians. The snow peaks stood out in dazzling clearness against the deep-blue sky. Far down in the valley, the little houses looked like a piece carved out of fairyland.

Suddenly, from a nearby group, a woman's strident voice was heard exclaiming loudly—about what? The loveliness of the scene? The awe-inspiring heights? The "above-the-world" feeling of the whole panorama?

None of these! She was telling her companions in what corner of some dismal little home market she could buy a chicken very cheaply late on a Saturday night!

I hope such insensibility to beauty is rare.

For it is all round us—free to all who have eyes to see and a mind to appreciate. It is a gift to be treasured and enjoyed.

Maybe, if those who, in the last few years, have so greatly troubled the world had looked at beauty more, and themselves less, history would have been different.

Charles Kingsley was not far wrong when he gave advice which we all can follow: "Never lose an opportunity to see something beautiful. Beauty is God's handwriting."

An example of beauty betraying its real worth is shown by the story of Lincoln Cathedral. A master craftsman, 600 years ago was responsible for filling most of the windows with a very rich glass which has always been admired. Long after this work was finished a youth enquired if he could fill a window. After much work and toil, all Lincoln flocked to gaze with wonder at the marvellous mosaic of shining glass, a glowing rainbow amidst a web of stone. The beauty and wonder impressed everyone, but the mystery was beyond them. The youth told them, to their astonishment, that he had collected in the grounds the fragments of glass which the master craftsman had thrown away, and those fragments became the glory of the Cathedral.

As we go through life—by searching a little deeper, perhaps we too could avoid overlooking the little incidents of beauty which could help to improve a character; could make our world a happier and brighter one.

M. MACK.

*A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.
Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits*

Keats, from "Endymion."

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