

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

How They Are Conveyed From the Sick to Persons at a Distance.

It is sometimes quite difficult to determine the extent to which the communicating particle can be carried. It is probable that the air from a small-pox hospital has given the disease to persons a mile distant. On the contrary, scarlet fever has been brought into the ward of a full but well-aired hospital and continued there a day without a single person contracting the disease. If we could be sure as to the secretions and all the skin separations from scarlet fever it would not be a very communicable disease; yet we have known a dress folded up at the bed of a dying patient and placed in a trunk, to convey the poison to a family of children four miles distant, when the dress was unfolded in their presence three months afterward. Whooping-cough and diphtheria are probably never conveyed by the first case occurring, except by the breath or sputa of the patient. Measles, on the other hand, are communicated at much greater distances. In general, any one of this class of diseases having become epidemic, the communication to others is from houses and clothing far more than from persons. Difficult as it is to determine accurately all the facts as to the conveyance of these diseases, their transmissibility, their times of incubation and the time of greatest risk of contagion, or when the patient ceases to be a risk to others, no subject is of more vital importance to communities.

Dr. Vacher, the medical officer of Birkenhead, and Dr. Dukes, of Rugby, have given much attention to the subject and have classified a large number of cases as to the time from the first symptom to the beginning of eruption, the time from beginning of eruption to cessation of fever, and the time from beginning of eruption to when the patient ceases to be infective. They state the latter as follows: For small-pox, 56 days; measles, 27 days; scarlet fever, 49 days; diphtheria, 28 days; mumps, 21 days; typhoid fever, 28 days.

These will serve as general guides. In all cases where schools are concerned the time of return should be guarded. It is to be remembered that more depends upon the cleanliness of the house and family and upon the garments worn than upon the person. It is often a question how far boards of health shall require reports of contagious diseases. In any good system of sanitary government such report is required as to small-pox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhus fever, cholera, and as to measles when extensively epidemic. We think strict rules should be enforced upon physicians as to such report, but that they should be paid therefor, inasmuch as such report is of special service, quite different from the certification of a death. The habits of different countries and States differ much, but all agree that the report should be made by some one. This is rendered more essential by recent facts, which show that by early and strict isolation the common communicable diseases are often prevented from becoming epidemic.

It is often a question how far attendance at funerals should be prevented in cases of death from communicable diseases. We know of a recent case in which the attendance of children at a church funeral, the death having been caused by malignant diphtheria, probably led to a dozen deaths and many cases in a sparse country village. The exposure is far greater for children than for adults. If all details as to the washing of the dead body, the dealing with clothing, the time of transfer to the coffin, the use of disinfectants, could be carefully regulated, it is probable that the risk would be very little; but as we can not rely upon the carrying out of all these details, it is better to prohibit public funerals, and to announce cause of death in all cases of the more dangerous communicable diseases.

Similar caution is needed as to the visits of friends upon those who are thus sick. While there is no need of such fear as will preclude assistance from other persons where there is need of help, there is no excuse for exposing the young. With due precaution as to airing garments, it is very rare that communicable diseases are carried to others by the casual visitor. We thus desire to caution all against unnecessary exposure, and to secure public opinion as an aid in preventing the spread of a class of diseases which counts so many victims.—N. Y. Independent.

Auto-Inoculation of Boils.

Those who are ever troubled with boils know as Job did, that it is common to have a crop of boils. This is doubtless due to impurities circulating in the blood; it is also supposed that it is possible to get a crop of boils from one by what is called auto-inoculation. Which means that the discharge from one boil if carried by fingers or dressings to a healthy portion of the skin, may plant the seeds of another one. To avoid this auto-inoculation it is well to use the precaution of antiseptics, or in short to disinfect the emanations from the boil by frequent applications, both before and after it opens, of a solution of boric acid and absolute alcohol. This affords a pretty short means of preventing a repetition or increase of boils by auto-inoculation, and where there is tendency to recurrence in spite of such precaution, thorough constitutional treatment for the blood is certainly advisable.—Dr. Foote's Health Monthly.

The lap of Dame Nature is probably located in the Pyrenees.—Pittsburgh Chronicle.

SCIENCE AND PROGRESS.

REMARKABLE SALT BED IN SOUTH-WESTERN LOUISIANA.

A Snow Melting Machine That Disposes of the Snow in the Roads Where it Falls—Dimensions of Animalcules Found in Stagnant Waters.

A method is described in The Scientific American which has proven useful in giving students of the microscope some adequate idea of the dimensions of animalcules found in stagnant water.



FIG. 1.—DRAWING THE TUBE.

A drop of apparently clear water placed on a glass slide and put under the objective will cause wonder and astonishment when the multitudinous of animalcular life are brought to view. They are here, swimming, twisting, standing, but how large are they! Don't know, because there is nothing to compare them with. Take a piece of soft glass tubing and soften it in the flame of a gas or alcohol lamp, and then draw it out into a very fine thread, which will be a capillary tube (see Fig. 1). That it is a tube may be proved by inserting one end in water and blowing into the other end, when minute bubbles will rise.

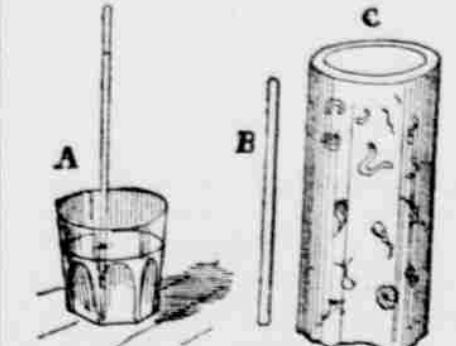


FIG. 2.—FILLING THE TUBE—ENLARGED ANIMALCULES.

Now insert this tube in a cup of stagnant water, and the water will readily enter it, rising, perhaps, several inches above the surface of the water in the cup (A in Fig. 2). Hold the tube (B) before you. No larger than a hair of your head and the bore much smaller. Is it possible there are living creatures in that small space?

Place the tube under the microscope, and lo! many a curious creature sporting itself in as much space as a man would have in a wide street of a city (C in Fig. 2). These have been seen where it would take at least a score of them placed end to end to make a chain long enough to reach across the space in the tube.

How large are they? Hold up the glass thread before your eyes and consider. It is small, the bore is smaller and they are twenty, perhaps fifty, times smaller still. Yet each is a perfect creature, with organized structure, and organs adapted for various functions. How large is one's mouth, foot, head? Where is the limit? 'Tis said that all the larger fleas have lesser fleas to bite 'em. And these in turn have smaller fleas, and so ad infinitum!

Snow Melting Apparatus.

A system of snow melting has been devised by Mr. F. Lyon, London. When it is considered that a fall of snow 6 inches deep, over one mile of road 60 feet wide, amounts to 5,800 cubic yards, the impossibility of removing it promptly by horses and carts is at once apparent—the more so when it is remembered that some metropolitan vestries have from 50 to 100 miles of road, and thus would have to deal with from 200,000 to 600,000 cubic yards of snow, assuming a 6 inch fall to occur. The principle of Mr. Lyon's invention, according to Scientific American, is that the snow can be dealt with in the roads on which it falls, when in a light and fleecy condition, and therefore easily melted.

The apparatus consists of a wrought iron tube about 35 feet long, having a furnace at one end and a short length of vertical pipe for a chimney at the other. The tube is made in lengths of 9 feet, and each length is tapered so that they all fit into each other and are closely packed for transport on wheels. When a fall of snow occurs the apparatus is to be laid along the gutters of the roads to be cleared, the wind occupied being about 4 feet. A fire is then to be lighted in the furnace, the heat from which will rise along the horizontal tube, which has a flatty arched top. The snow is then to be shoveled on to the heated tube, which will melt it, the resulting water flowing away to the nearest gully. A trial of this apparatus took place in the St. Maribone district in February, 1885, on some snow which had fallen long previously and had been twice carted. Notwithstanding the solidified condition of the snow and the imperfect condition of the experimental apparatus, it is stated that 21 yards of the consolidated snow, weighing 10 tons 8 cwt. 3 qrs., and equal to 188 yards of freshly fallen snow, were melted in ten hours with a consumption of coke of the value of 1s. 3d., or under 1/3d. per ton.

A Remarkable Salt Bed.

One of the most remarkable salt beds in the world, says American Naturalist, is located on the side of Petit Anse, southwestern Louisiana, 125 miles due west from New Orleans. The deposit is pure crystal salt. So far as it has been traced there are 150 acres of unknown depth explored 150 feet down. The surface of the bed undulates from one foot above to six feet below tide level. By analyses the salt is 90.88 per cent. pure. The position of the salt shows it to be older than the coal and sandstone which lie above it.

Scales in a Steam Boiler.

The very best way to prevent scales in a steam boiler, says one who has tried it, is to use a feed water heater that will deposit the scale by raising the temperature of the water in the heater high enough to liberate the soluble matter before the water gets into the boiler. Nobody ever heard of "bagged sheets" on a heater. We see one every day on boilers. Don't let the scale in and it won't trouble you.

Drilling Holes in Glass Plates.

An experimenter tells of his successful experience in drilling holes three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter through glass plates about one-eighth of an inch thick, by the use of an ordinary bow drill, with spirits of turpentine as lubricant. The holes were drilled from one side until the point of the drill just penetrated the opposite side of the glass; then the glass was turned over and the holes finished by drilling from the opposite side.

Duplex Principle in Telegraphy.

The duplex principle has been successfully adapted to the Phelps system of inductive telegraphy, so that messages may be sent to and from moving trains in the ordinary manner without interfering with the transmission of messages by induction. With this improvement, a single line is all that is required for both train and ordinary telegraphy.

TIMES HAD CHANGED.

A Brief Reading by the Sea-Shore Seven Years After Marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins went down to the sea-shore the other day for one of the quiet, happy times they used to have six or seven years ago, before they were wed.

They took with them this time a volume of Tennyson and three little Jenkins's.

"The children can play on the sand while we lie on the soft, green grass and you read Tennyson to me," said Mrs. Jenkins in dreamy anticipation.

"Queen Guinevere had fled the coast"—began Jenkins, when they had reached the "soft, green grass."

"Tommy, get out of that water! What do you mean wading in so far?" There in the holy hush at Almsbury—

"Willie! If I speak to you again, young man, you'll stop pouring sand down your little sister's back!"

"For better, had she fled, her cause of flight—"

"Bessie, you and Tommy stop splashing water on each other—stop at this instant!"

For thus it chanced one morn, when all the court—

"Willie, what on earth are you doing with your hands full of that nasty seaweed?" "There, Tommy, I told you you'd tried to lift such a big one. Now you mind me next time!"

But when Sir Lancelot told this matter to the Queen, at first she—

"Where are those children? You hold the book, and I'll go see. There's Willie wading in the water up to his waist again, and Bessie's sitting flat in the wet sand in her white dress. Tommy's drowned like enough. I guess we won't read any more poetry to-day. You, Tommy—Tom, where are you?"—Zeus Dune, in Time.

DISTILLING LIQUORS.

A Process Which in Its Primitive Form is Known to All Savages.

Primitive methods of distillation may have existed in nearly all savage nations. It is probable that some method of distilling liquors existed in the time of Homer; but the strong alcoholic liquors of the present day are a comparatively modern invention. The discovery of alcohol is generally credited to an Arabian physician, Albus Kasem, who lived in the eleventh century. A monk named Marcus, however, as early as the time of Clevis collected the steam from the heated spirit of white wine on wool and squeezed out of the wool a balsam, which is described by writers of the day to have been capable of bringing the dying back to life. Savonarola wrote a treatise on the water-of-life in the fifteenth century which gave a start to the art of brandy-making in France. In 1494 distilled liquors had become such a curse to England that laws were made prohibiting their use. In 1761 spirituous liquors were used to such an alarming extent in Sweden that Emanuel Swedenborg presented several measures to the Diet to diminish the number of drunkards. The Diet finally adopted his proposition to limit the distillation of whisky by farming out the right to distill it to the highest bidder. "that is," he adds after making this suggestion, "if the consumption of whisky can not be done away with altogether, which would be much more desirable for the country's welfare and morality than all the income that could be realized by so pernicious a drink."—N. Y. Tribune.

HIGHT OF WAVES.

How High They Have Been Actually Known to Rise in Storms.

The story of waves that run mountain high is a very great exaggeration. Many important measurements have been made, all of which show that the common estimate of the height of waves is due to imagination and fear. The measurements of Scoresby, which are regarded as very accurate, proved that during storms waves in the Atlantic rarely exceed forty-three feet from hollow to crest. The distance between the crests being 560 feet, and their speed thirty-two and one-half miles an hour. More recent observations taken in the Atlantic gives from forty-four to forty-eight as the highest measured waves; but such heights are rarely reached, and, indeed, waves exceeding thirty feet are very seldom encountered. The monsoon waves at Kurrahee breakwater works were found to dash over the wall to the depth of thirteen feet, or about forty feet above the mean sea level. The greatest height of waves on the British coast were those observed in Wick bay—so famous for the exceptionally heavy seas which roll into it—being thirty-seven and one-half to forty feet. Green seas to the depth of twenty-five feet poured over the parapet of the breakwater at intervals of from seven to ten minutes, each wave, it is estimated, being a mass of forty thousand tons of water, and this continually for three days and nights. During severe storms the waves used to ride high above the top of Smeaton Eddystone tower, while at the Bell Rock the seas, with easterly storms, envelop the tower from base to balcony—a height of four hundred feet.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

A peculiar incident of history is the fact that two Jews of Bagdad have bought the entire site of the ancient city of Babel, the great capital of Nebuchadnezzar. The purchasers are two brothers Effendi, one of whom was elected member of the Turkish Parliament which convened in 1878. It is remarkable that two Jews have become the heirs of the gardens of Semiramis and the palaces of Nebuchadnezzar, or what if of them.

VISITING CARDS.

Their Introduction Not so Much a Matter of Invention as of Evolution.

It is not easy to determine with precision where and when visiting and invitation cards originated in Europe. In reality they were not so much a matter of invention as of evolution. The first person who utilized the white back of the playing card to write his name on when he failed to find his friend at home, or to leave a message or invitation for him, would, were he known, be entitled to the title of "inventor." We know that in England these cards had their origin in the way indicated. Dr. Carlton, in English Notes and Queries, says that in examining a lot of old papers he came across a number of such cards dated 1752-1764, many of which were printed from English copper-plates on the backs of old playing cards. The visiting cards were small, the cards having been cut, and those of the Earl and Countess of Northumberland were printed on the back of the tray of clubs and of the queen of diamonds respectively. The invitations to card-parties, printed from copper-plates, were large enough to cover the whole back of a playing card. The Duchess of Grafton's card is printed on the back of the ace of hearts, and Lady Northumberland's on the back of the ten of spades and ten of hearts. At the bottom of the latter are added the words: "Without hoops if agreeable." It is presumed the huge hoops of those days impeded access to the card-table. It would appear that the use of such invitation-cards, especially in connection with card-parties, had become established in London in the first half of the eighteenth century. Previously, invitations to such parties were sent to be sent verbally through servants. The writing on the back of playing cards was to prevent mistakes as well as from an appreciation of the symbolical appropriateness of the form. Card-board proper, as we know it, had not yet been invented. The custom was found convenient, and so was extended to calling-cards, and became fashionable. Some thirty-five years ago a house in Dean street, Soho, the residence of either Hogarth (1698-1764) or his father-in-law, was in course of repair. On removing a marble chimney-piece in the front drawing-room four or five playing cards were found, on the back of which names were written—one that of Sir Isaac Newton (born 1642). It has been conjectured these were visiting cards; but it is really doubtful whether the philosopher would have employed such. Might they not have been produced by the artist as studies for his art? In plate IV of his Marriage-a-la-Mode, several such cards are represented lying on the floor in the right hand corner of the picture. On one, the painter, with his wonted caustic humor, has satirized the ignorance of the upper classes by inscribing on it the following ingeniously misspelled polite inquiry: "Count Bassot begs to no how Lade Squander sleapt last nite." In a novel called the "Spiritual Quixote," published in Bath in 1766—the scenes being laid in that city in the time of Beau Nash, who died 1760—a preacher is called to account because, while he is continually inveighing against gaming, he has in his pocket a pack of soiled cards ready for his engagements or pleasures. A note says: "A set of blank cards has since been invented by which the above absurdities may be avoided." This note seems to date the substitution of visiting cards proper for inscribed playing cards. Nor must we overlook the passage in chapter 12 of St. Roman's Well, in which "the Captain presented to Lucky Dods the fifth part of an ordinary playing-card much grimed with snuff, which bore on the blank side his name and quality." Whether Ben Johnson's expression: "You shall cartel him" points to an earlier use of these cards in affairs of honor, we do not take it on us to decide.—American Notes and Queries.

WAR CYCLORAMAS.

An Artist Explains How They Are Painted and Put Together.

The popular idea of how the war cycloramas, like the Battle of Gettysburg, Battle of Shiloh, Battle of Chickamauga, etc., are painted, appears very laughable to a person who knows how the work is accomplished. The Battle of Gettysburg and the Siege of Paris have been shown for several years on opposite sides of Hubbard court, in Chicago, and the stock paid large dividends. Each was advertised as the work of celebrated French artists, father and son, and the popular idea is that these gentlemen painted them. The fact is that, beyond a general outlining of the work, which was probably faithfully made after maps procured from authentic sources, and a general direction of the plan of the work, the artist-in-chief had very little to do with it. No man engaged in a battle sees it, and an accurate painting of two armies in combat is impossible. The general features only are known. For instance, in the Gettysburg painting there are accurately defined the roads, Crown Hill, Little Crown Hill, the wheat field in which a memorable charge was made, one or two buildings which were headquarters of the leading Generals, and, with reasonable accuracy, the topography of the country is depicted with excellent perspective. But the details of the battle, the actual clash of arms between this and that division or brigade, is left a good deal to the imagination. The artist-in-chief hires some men to put in the sky, other men to put in the trees and foliage, other men to put in the men in action. Attention is paid to developing this or that memorable incident, as, in the Gettysburg painting, the death of the cannoneer, the amputation of the soldier's limb beside the haystack. Take it all together it makes up a picture that is thrilling enough to arouse the most intense interest on the part of the old soldier. I remember standing by the side of a veteran at the Chicago picture of Gettysburg. He was explaining to a companion the details of the fight, in which he had borne an honorable part. "Say, Bill," said he, "at that stone wall there I lost my hat and, by gosh, if there ain't the old hat lying there yet!" In painting pictures of battles shrewd artists never fail to bestow the field with lost hats, muskets and canteens.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

THE AQUATIC SPIDER.

How It Prepares Itself for an Attack on Its Unsuspecting Prey.

While their nearly constant abode is the water, they are, like most other spiders, air-breathers; consequently they need some special provision for providing themselves with air while living under the water, and for this purpose they possess the art of constructing a kind of diving-bell. It is an interesting sight to witness one of them making his air-cell. Clinging to the lower side of a few leaves, and securing them in position by spinning a few threads, the spider rises to the level of the water, with its belly uppermost, and doubling up its hind-legs, retains a stratum of air among the hairs with which its body is covered. Then it plunges into the water and appears as in the first stage of the making of its silvery robe. Going immediately to the spot it had chosen, it brushes its body with its paws, when the air detaches itself and forms a bubble under the leaf. The spider surrounds this bubble with the impermeable silky matter furnished by its spinneret. Returning to the surface, it takes in another layer of air, which it carries down and adds to the first one, also extending the envelope over it. The process is kept up till the "diving-bell" has reached the proper size and is finished. The ideal form of the construction is that of a thimble, but it often assumes an irregular shape, like an inverted sack. When the spider has taken possession of its redoubt it remains quiet in it, head down, watching for the appearance of an insect. Perceiving one, it seizes it and returns to its lodge, which it has secured against intruders by spinning threads across it, to devour its prey at its leisure.—M. Emile Blanchard, in Popular Science Monthly.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Post Humea, Mich., undertaker has a large tent for funeral purposes.

Whoever he has a funeral on a rainy day he places the tent over the grave so that services may be held with but little inconvenience.

A young man who presented a forged order to a Detroit theater manager swindled the paper when the fraud was detected. No bad results followed, as he was a regular eater at the depot lunch counter.

A little pamphlet called "Humor in Ye Sixteenth Century" shows that ye joker of that period borrowed a great deal of his wit from ye humorist of the Nineteenth century, without giving a particle of credit.—Norristown Herald.

"Now," said the choir director, "sing the third stanza very softly. It is necessary to do so to bring out the spirit of the composition." "Hymn No. 96," broke in the clergyman, "omitting the third verse." And the singers enjoyed it more than the director.—Exchange.

Shakespeare, who left his wife his second best bedstead, has been surpassed in indifference by a modern English testator, who bequeathed his wife one farthing, which he directed the executrix to forward to her by post, unpaid, as an indication of his disgust at the treatment which he had received at her hands, and especially in respect of the abusive epithets, such as "Old Pig," that he considered unjustified.

Bees and homing pigeons recently raced between Hamm and Rhyern, Belgium. The towns are an hour apart, and the bet was that twelve bees would beat twelve pigeons in making the distance. Four drones and eight working bees well powdered with flour and released at the same instant with the pigeons at Rhyern. A drone reached home four seconds in advance of the first pigeon; the three other drones and one pigeon came in neck and neck, and the eight working bees came in just a trifle, about a length ahead of the ten pigeons.

In sinking large pits and wells in Nevada stratas of rock salt were cut through, in which were found imbedded perfectly preserved fish, which are probably thousands of years old, as the salt field occupies what was once the bottom of a large lake, and no such fish are now to be found in Nevada. The specimens were not petrified, but flesh, and all were preserved in perfect form, and after being soaked in water for two or three days could be cooked and eaten, but were not very palatable. After being exposed to the air and sun for a day or two, they became as hard as wood.

A novel and very pretty spectacle was introduced at a Brooklyn swimming school exhibition. It was called the chariot race. Two little papier mache chariots were constructed and in each one was a four-year-old child. Harnessed to the chariots were two little boys, who swam over the course drawing their fair freight after them. The lads were about six years old, yet they made very good time and the winner was presented with a fine fishing pole. The children in the chariot enjoyed the race quite as much as the boys.

WONDERFUL BLIND MAN.

He Knows How to Work a Type-Writer and Can Play an Organ.

The Rev. E. R. Donehoo, secretary of the Pittsburgh association which proposes to erect an institution for the instruction of the blind, has received a remarkable letter from Alden F. Hays, a prominent blind citizen of Sewickley. The letter is in the clear and pretty characters of the type-writer, and was written upon the machine by that gentleman himself. In it Mr. Hays briefly tells Mr. Donehoo his own history, to show what wonders may be worked among the blind people by education.

He was for eight years a pupil in the Philadelphia Institution for the Blind, where so many blind boys and girls from Allegheny were trained. He is now a man of about thirty-eight years of age. His career since leaving school and his present mode of life present some marvelous facts. A few of those he relates to Mr. Donehoo as an evidence of the bright future that is possible for every blind person, if schooling advantages were only more common.

Mr. Hays is a son of the brilliant General Alexander Hays, whose heroic services in the late war ended with death in the Wilderness. He is now, and has been for several years past, a coal merchant, supplying most of Sewickley with fuel. He conducts the entire business himself—without clerical assistance.

He is totally blind, yet he writes all his own orders by type-writer for coal from the mine operators, takes the car numbers when the coal arrives; weighs the coal by the wagon-load for customers; gives the drivers properly filled out tickets, or makes out the receipts; receives money, counts it, and makes change; keeps a set of books; walks to and from his home without company, and in fact goes anywhere in Sewickley by himself and without a cane.

He is an accomplished musician. For eighteen years past he has been organist in the Presbyterian church, and he still takes every Friday afternoon from his business to rehearse the music for this church on Sabbaths.—Pittsburgh Cor. Boston Globe.

Sweet Use of Adversity.

The touch of adversity is just as necessary to bring out the best there is in some men as is the touch of the frost to reveal the glories of the autumn. What is more beautiful than a tree or forest flashing with all the colors of the rainbow? How delightful is a drive with these bouquets of nature lining the roadside! It is said these splendors of the autumn foliage are the sunshine which the trees have been silently storing up during the summer when the sun has been shining upon them. Happy is the man who, in the sunshine of prosperity, has enriched his life with those graces of character which will shine out most beautifully when the touch of adversity or sorrow comes!—Christian Inquirer.

CURE FOR BLINDNESS.

An Operation Which Relieves the Brain and Restores Sight.

English surgeons have devised a new and beneficent operation by which the sheath of the optic nerve behind the eye is opened and not only is the pressure upon the nerve removed, and total, or almost total, blindness cured, but the brain itself is relieved. The membranes which invest the brain, and are continued down to the eye in the form of a sheath which surrounds the optic nerve, secrete a certain amount of fluid, and whenever there is an excess of this secretion, or by other means, as by the growth of a brain tumor, the pressure within the cavity of the brain is increased, a superabundance of fluid is apt to find its way down the nerve sheath to the level of the eye, subjecting the optic nerve to injurious pressure and frequently destroying the sight. This blindness may be permanent, even though the pressure in the brain cavity which causes it be only temporary and be cured. Dr. Dowecker, of Paris, sixteen or seventeen years ago, suggested that it was possible to open the optic-nerve sheath, and thus not only to relieve the nerve from pressure, but also to drain the brain cavity and relieve the brain pressure there. He made two experiments in this line upon two nearly hopeless cases, but he tried to feel his way to the nerve without the aid of sight, and to cut the sheath by means of an instrument carrying a concealed knife which was projected by means of a spring. Only one other attempt of this sort was made, and the results not being satisfactory, the experiments were dropped until last year. Dr. Brudenell Carter, of London, devised a method of operating by which the sheath was exposed to view, and every step of the operation was guided by the surgeon's eye. In a paper read before the British Medical Association at its recent meeting at Glasgow, Dr. Carter told of four cases in which he had performed the operation. In one the result was negative, so far as the sight was concerned; in the other three the patients were not only quickly restored to sight, but were relieved or cured of headache and sickness arising from pressure on the brain. Dr. Carter claims that the new operation could be performed with certainty and without risk either to life or to any important structure.

Dr. Bickerton, of Liverpool, at the same meeting said that after hearing of Dr. Carter's first case, he has performed the operation himself in two cases, in one of which temporary restoration of sight was followed by a relapse, but in the other one the result was favorable.—N. Y. Cor. Chicago Journal.