favourable, especially in the cases associated with the menopause. In 20 cases the typical picture of thrombosis of the central vein was present, and in one of these (a woman, aged 47 years) sight was restored in six months, and vision was still 4/5 four years later. The low percentage of cases of albuminuria in these statistics is somewhat remarkable, but tends to support the views recently expressed by P. C. Bardsley (*Brit. Jl. of Ophthal.*, April, 1917), namely, that the prognosis in cases which show moderate vascular disease of the retina is not so bad as has generally been thought. As has been shown by R. Foster Moore, cases of retinal vascular disease must be classified in various categories, the prognosis varying according to particular type. It is, therefore, somewhat misleading to regard haemorrhagic retinitis as a single clinical entity; it is a symptomatic condition which must be evaluated according to concomitant factors."

**Drugs**

At the recent annual meeting of the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital the atropin problem came in for some attention. It was pointed out that the remedy could be obtained prior to the war for about 23s. an ounce, whereas it has recently cost over £8 an ounce.

From a recent issue of the *Lancet* (April 28, 1917) we note that a colloidal form of cocain has been put upon the market. A sample of the new product (1 per cent.) tested in the Bacteriological Department of Guy's Hospital, London, showed that for all practical purposes it was non-toxic in rabbits, while a couple of drops produced anaesthesia of the eye both in rabbits and the human subject. In the opinion of the investigator, therefore, collosol cocain may be regarded as an efficient local anaesthetic.

Our contemporary *La Clinique Ophthalmologique* publishes in its issue of January last (received only the other day) abstracts of two German articles, both of which point the moral that optochin, when given internally, even with great care, may cause blindness from optic atrophy. Such observations are not exactly novel. For example, Fränkel (*Berl. klin. Wochenschr.*, 1912, p. 664) found that 14.3 per cent. of the patients treated internally with optochin developed amblyopia, and G. H. Oliver (*Brit. Med. Jl.*, April 22, 1916) had such a case under observation. In order to prevent such accidents, one of the authors whose work is abstracted in the French journal recommends that optochin be given in doses of 0.20 grm., not exceeding a total of 1.20 grm. a day, and, furthermore, that basic optochin be employed, which is less readily soluble than the hydrochloride salt in more general use.

An article describing the surgical uses of ozone appears in the *Lancet*, of May 26 last. The writer, Mr. George Stoker, gives a
A list of seventy-nine disabilities treated in that way, and included we find three cases of suppuration after enucleation of the eye, and one case of suppuration in the lacrimal sac. As regards the first-named condition, the ozone appears to have acted well and promptly; but in the last-named no result was noted after twenty-one applications, and the sac was eventually removed.

Cutaneous Reactions

An interesting paragraph in the April number of *American Medicine* deals with the effect of the administration of certain drugs upon the different skin reactions. From recent researches it appears that normal individuals react positively to the luetin test after the administration of sixty or more grains of potassium iodide. Tuberculin reactions are intensified after iodides or bromides have been given. It is clearly of importance to distinguish between skin reactions of specific origin and those due to the administration of drugs. Indeed, it is by no means unlikely that failure to recognize the influence of medicines ingested may account in part for the divergent results obtained by observers with the luetin reaction and similar diagnostic tests.

ABSTRACTS

I.—GUMMATA


(2) Pissarello, C.—A case of ulcerating gumma of the lid due to late hereditary syphilis. (*Sopra un caso di gomma ulcerata delle palpebre, manifestazione sifilitica ereditaria tardiva.*) *Arch. di Ottalm.*, July, 1916.

(1) Werner reports the following case:—A healthy married woman, fifty years of age, complained of a left-sided headache of fourteen days’ duration. There was redness and swelling of the lower lid, towards the external canthus, but no tenderness. A small tumour, about the size of a bean, could be felt on the outer end of the lower orbital margin. It was believed to be fibro-sarcoma, and was excised. A year later the patient returned with a similar tumour in the right orbit. Meanwhile the original growth had been found to be a granulation tumour, and a positive Wassermann reaction had been obtained. Gumma was therefore suspected, and, under salvarsan treatment, the new growth disappeared. The case serves to remind...