3. Mme. Sidonie G.-A. 31 January, 1919. Dry conjunctivitis of left eye. Says that she was similarly affected seven years ago.

4. Mme. E.-P., aet. 72 years. 25 February, 1919. Mild chronic conjunctivitis, probably of the xerosis type.

It will be seen that these eye conditions were far from rare among the French civilians who had been subject to the miseries of the German domination for so long; and it is evident that prolonged malnutrition was of great importance as a causative factor, even in cases where the condition was nothing worse than an infection by the *Bacillus xerosis*.

E. C. Bulley has published a "Note on Xerophthalmia in Rats" as the result of certain observations on the consequence of defective diet (*Biochem. Journ.*, Vol. XIII, No. 2, July, 1919), and in an editorial in the *British Medical Journal* for August 23, 1919 (p. 240) the following, with regard to such feeding experiments, occurs and is worthy of note: "In some experiments by Hopkins, the eye condition, which developed within a fortnight after the animals had been put on a diet deficient in the fat soluble factor, was conjunctivitis with ulceration of the cornea, which might go on to rupture of the cornea and dissolution of the globe." Mouquet (*Rev. Méd. Vétérinaire*, Nov., 1919) has recorded the occurrence of nutritional keratitis in five pet dogs whose owners had kept them on a dietary of boiled rice, proved by the event to have been insufficient for their needs. In the profound nutritional disturbances that follow upon systemic poisonings, corneal ulceration may sometimes occur: I have seen it develop in a child who died in secondary coma and acetonæmia fifty-two hours after having swallowed some laudanum that had been left out where he got access to it, and I have also seen a punched out corneal ulcer in a dog dying of a gross overdose of extract of male fern that had been administered by a veterinary surgeon.

HEREDITARY CATARACT

BY

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SOMEWHAT accidentally we discovered that we had each operated for cataract on different members of the same family, and our mutual investigations have enabled us to construct the following genealogical tree. It is only right to state that we have not seen all these individuals. Mrs. F. has supplied us with most of the information about her relations. All these people, except her

grandfather's brother and one of her cousins, were operated on in Glasgow, several of them by the late Mr. Henry E. Clark. In all the cases the cataract came on between the ages of 13 and 18 years, and previous to this the vision was good. After operation, and with the usual corrections, they seem to have obtained good vision. The cases that we have seen in the early stages presented opaque radiating spokes like ordinary senile cataract. Both eyes are usually affected. Mrs. F. states that her family and her relations are all healthy people.

*NOTE.—Since the above was written it has been found that Mrs. F.'s youngest daughter has cataract.—J.R.

A GALILEAN ADAPTER

BY

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IN The *Ophthalmoscope* for 1911, on page 41 *et seq.*, there is an account of telescopic spectacles which probably everyone who has tested them has found of very varying utility. Some patients rejected them; others found them of great service, and it was not possible to foretell their value in any given case. This uncertainty, together with their considerable cost, was sufficient to make one chary of ordering them, and yet on occasion they gave great help.