

(Sclerectomy, more particularly in the form of Elliot's trephining operation, has largely superseded iridectomy in cases of simple and also often in cases of chronic congestive glaucoma. Recently there has been a tendency to return to iridectomy even in these conditions—this partly because of the danger of late infection, referred to above, *which, according to some, occurs in some 7 per cent. of the cases.*)”

The italics are my own. I do not think I need comment further on the matter.

Yours truly,

R. H. ELLIOT, LIEUT.-COL. I.M.S. (Ret.)

January 29, 1922.

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COLLOSOL ARGENTUM (FOR THE MEDICAL  
PROFESSION ONLY).

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To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

SIR,—As we get older, the healthy scepticism of youth passes through the more tolerant atmosphere of middle age into the indifference of the aged; even so, I think that few ophthalmic surgeons will subscribe to the opinions expressed on page 19 of the small brochure which has been recently sown broadcast (by the proprietors of collosol argentum) through the profession.

With the main portion of the contents of this pamphlet ophthalmic surgeons are not concerned, but in that part of it devoted to collosol argentum in ophthalmic surgery, the following statement occurs, to which most of us would take exception.

“In reference to purulent ophthalmia in infants he (Dr. Legge Rowe, of Hull) states that if collosol argentum drops were employed impaired vision or blindness from this cause would cease and, *the drops being harmless to the conjunctiva, the treatment of the case may be safely left to the friends.*” Referring to Dr. Legge Rowe's original paper (B.M.J., 1915, Vol. I, 104), I find as follows. “In purulent ophthalmia of infants the same treatment is used, and I am certain that if this treatment was adopted in every case early, there would be no such thing as impaired vision or blindness from this cause. Many cases are treated in the out-patient department of the dispensary, and the drops being absolutely harmless may be safely trusted to the friends. The child is brought up once daily for the silver nitrate drops, and the eyes are washed out every hour at home, and the collosol drops put in.”

This is a very different matter from leaving the treatment of the case in the hands of the friends.

It must be about ten years ago that I gave collosol argentum a trial in cases of ophthalmia neonatorum. It is true that I did not give it a very prolonged trial, for I came to the conclusion that, in my hands at any rate, the results were no better than those obtained with argyrol and protargol; I may be prejudiced, but such was my opinion at the time. I imagine that it has been tried at St. Margaret's Hospital in Kentish Town, and it would be interesting to hear the observations of the chief ophthalmic officer of that institution on this point.

I do not like to appear to be looking a gift horse in the mouth, but I think that the statement on the title page: "A plain statement of the facts relating to the action and uses of collosol argentum based entirely on the published reports of medical authorities in standard medical journals" seems to need revision.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

R. R. JAMES.

LONDON, February, 1922.

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## NOTES

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### Deaths

WE regret to record the death of Mr. Charles Wray, at the age of 63, in a London nursing home. An obituary will follow.

Dr. Lovell Moss died in hospital at Gibraltar on January 24, as the result of an accident between his car and a troop train at a level crossing. He studied at Moorfields and took the diploma of D.O. Oxford in 1920. He practised as an ophthalmologist in Gibraltar and Algeciras.

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### illuminating Engineering Society. Annual Dinner

SIR JOHN H. PARSONS, President of the Illuminating Engineering Society, presided at the highly successful Annual Dinner of the Society on February 10. A number of distinguished ophthalmic surgeons were present as guests, including Mr. J. B. Lawford (Chairman of the Council of British Ophthalmologists), Mr. J. Herbert Fisher (President of the Ophthalmological Society), Sir William T. Lister, and Mr. W. T. Holmes Spicer.

Sir Herbert Jackson (on behalf of the Royal Society) proposed the toast of the "Illuminating Engineering Society," recalling that its President had initiated a discussion on "Glare: Its Causes and Effect," very early in the history of the Society. Mr. Lawford, who followed, also alluded to the value of the Society's work in promoting the study of the effect of light on the eye. The President, in responding, gave an admirable survey of the Society's