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MARYLAND MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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2578 I.

ORIGINAL PAPERS.

ABUSES OF NITRATE OF SILVER IN THE TREATMENT OF EYE DISEASES.

BY JULIAN J. CHISOLM, M. D., PROFESSOR OF EYE AND EAR DISEASES
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND.

From the frequency with which Nitrate of Silver solutions are prescribed by Physicians for the various inflammatory affections of the eye, regardless of the degree of congestion or character of the structure involved, one would be led to believe that there is but one disease for all eye affections, to which the general term Ophthalmia is well suited, and that the panacea for all phases of this disease is Nitrate of Silver, applied locally, either in solid form or in solutions of varied strength. This caustic, *so active for good in a few of the inflammatory troubles of the eye, so potent for evil in by far the majority of acute eye diseases*, has ever been a favorite remedy with physicians. They imagine that no injury can possibly be committed through the application of a Nitrate of Silver solution into an eye in which the vessels are injected, more especially if the congestion has been of some duration.

How many thousand eyes have been destroyed through this mistaken practice can easily be imagined; for certain it is that those physicians who devote exclusively their time and attention to the diseases of the eye have daily brought to their notice the most serious damage induced, at the hands of general practitioners, through the too liberal use of this dangerous salt. No eye lesion seems to be safe from its intrusion. The few that need it, and the many which resent its application, are equally made to feel the

g. J. Chisolm 12-17-23

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