

**ON SQUINTING, PARALYTIC
AFFECTIONS OF THE
EYE, AND CERTAIN FORMS
OF IMPAIRED VISION**

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On Squinting, Paralytic Affections of the Eye, and Certain Forms of Impaired Vision by Carsten Holthouse

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CARSTEN HOLTHOUSE

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SQUINTING,
ETC.

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S Q U I N T I N G,
PARALYTIC AFFECTIONS
OF THE EYE,
AND
CERTAIN FORMS OF IMPAIRED VISION.

BY
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P R E F A C E .

THERE are perhaps no deformities more common than strabismus, and there are few the pathology of which is less understood ; this may be owing to the little importance attached to the affection, as it compromises neither the life nor the health of the individual. For this reason, though volumes have been written on the subject, and thousands of operations have been performed for its cure, the profession is still divided on many points essential to the right treatment of the deformity. One ophthalmologist asserts " that in almost every case of strabismus both eyes are equally implicated in the

abnormal position:" another holds a directly opposite opinion. The former maintains that it is immaterial which eye is operated on; the latter considers it essential to determine which is the really affected eye, and to operate on this only. There are others again who consider the deformity to depend upon an imperfection of vision, and say that if this be remedied no operation will be required, for the eye will right itself.

Such contrariety of opinion is not flattering to medical science, and proves how much yet remains to be elucidated.

Between three and four years ago I published some observations on Strabismus in the form of Lectures. In the present volume a different plan has been adopted. Cases are narrated substantially as they were recorded in my note-book at the time, and to these are appended such remarks as each seemed to suggest.

In the chapter on the pathology of strabismus, a tabular view of the origin of nearly 400 cases is given, and from an analysis of these cases and

of the phenomena of the affection some general conclusions are arrived at.

In the chapter devoted to the treatment of strabismus, I have confined myself entirely to the surgical mode of dealing with the deformity. I am well aware that incipient and slight cases of squint may sometimes be cured without operation, and that instances are not wanting, in which more confirmed distortions have been got rid of by persevering efforts on the part of the patient; but even when such efforts have been attended with success, the accompanying impairment of vision is not removed. Now, dividing the muscle by which the strabismus is produced, not only rectifies the malposition of the eye, but improves its vision, and on these grounds I hold the operation to be preferable to all other methods of treatment.

The remarks on paralytic affections of the muscles of the eye, are made chiefly with the object of elucidating the nature of the impaired vision which accompanies those affections, and

introductory to the observations on strabismic vision and other allied defects of sight in the following chapter. Lastly, some remarks on double vision have been added, explanatory of the phenomena manifested in some of the cases narrated in a previous part of the volume.

C. HOLTHOUSE.

2, STOREY'S GATE,
ST. JAMES'S PARK.

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