

But this doctrine was afterwards much ridiculed and absolutely put down, by Galen after he had ascertained that the crystalline lens was the organ that transmitted and refracted light. But as a learned and good historian has said ^{sc} truth is immortal and will prevail; This doctrine of Hippocrates was partially revived in 1656 by Leasnier Borel and others. The greater part of practitioners remained ignorant of this truth, until about the 18th century when it was fully manifested by Mery, Heister, and others. This truth having lain dormant so long, proves in a most convincing manner, that the most minute parts of arts and sciences, are least studied and least understood. A cataract first shows itself as a speck or spot in the pupil of the eye occupying sometimes a part, and sometimes the whole aperture. It is generally of a grey or white colour but sometimes of a deep white. It may generally be distinguished by the dark appearance of the pupil. In the commencement of the disease it occasions a dimness or imperfection of sight, which terminates sooner or later in a total extinction of sight. During the progress of the affection the patient can see best in a moderate light. The reason of this is that the pupil being more dilated in a weak than a strong light still admits some rays through the yet transparent circumference of the crystalline lens. A settled mist seems to cover objects and especially those that are small, and the sight of them is rather confused and vibrating. If the disease come on without any known cause this confused vision is always experienced before any opacity appears in the pupil. It is pretty difficult