

AN INSTRUMENT FOR TATTOOING THE CORNEA.

By Dr. WILLIAM THOMSON.

HAVING recently met with two cases of central corneal opacity, where it seemed desirable to reproduce as accurately as possible the appearances of the black pupil, and not being satisfied with the grooved needle which I saw in use at Moorefield, where, in this operation, the commissure, at opening of the lids, was filled with the pigment, and the punctures were made through this stratum, I was led to give a trial to the one presented for your consideration.

It consists of a small steel pen, manufactured by Gillott, and known as the Lithographic Crow Quill, which has been fitted for this purpose, by having its point converted into a cutting surface by rubbing it flatwise upon a hone. Its barrel will receive the ink in sufficient quantity to complete, perhaps, the entire operation, and the pen should be held with its trough uppermost. It may then be made to penetrate the laminæ of the cornea obliquely, and by a slight lifting movement on its withdrawal, a portion of ink will be carried into the depths of each incision. The vision of the operator is not impeded by a quantity of ink overlying the cornea; he can easily perceive the effect of each puncture, and the leucoma may be stippled with as much precision as though it were composed of paper. In the two cases in which it was used, it fulfilled the above conditions, and both operations were followed by very pleasing results.