

CORRESPONDENCE.

SPECTACLES AND HOW TO SELL THEM.

WRITTEN SPECIALLY FOR THE TRADER.

PAPER NO. IV. — CONCLUSION.

Long Sight. The healthy eye can distinguish near and distant objects with equal facility. By this we mean any object not nearer to the eye than eight inches; but at a certain period of life long sightedness occurs, which shows itself by a difficulty of distinguishing any object closer to the eye than fourteen, sixteen or eighteen inches, although objects at a distance are as easily seen as in youth.

When this occurs the rays of light from a near object after being refracted by the eye, fail to form a sharp image on the retina, hence instead of accurate vision, imperfect haze is the result, and clearness can only be obtained by removing the object to a greater distance, or increasing the light, so as to cause an undue contraction of the pupil.

Short Sight. In short sight, distant objects cannot be distinctly seen and even near ones must be brought very close to the eye to see them distinctly. This arises from too great a convexity of the crystalline lens and cornea, and is in many cases congenital.

As long sight and short sight are the only two cases that an ordinary dealer in spectacles has to fit, we shall confine ourselves to these two conditions.

Long Sight. The natural decay of vision occurs usually from thirty to fifty years of age, varying according to the habits and employment of the individual. Sometimes during this interval the refractive power of the crystalline humors of the eye slightly alters its condition, whilst the crystalline lens and cornea change their form so that a difficulty of distinct vision is felt. The eye loses a portion of its power of seeing at varying distances, or its power of adjustment and near objects are no longer seen as easily as in youth. Reading small print by lamplight is difficult, as the book requires to be held at a greater distance from the eye than formerly, and a more powerful light is needed, and even then the letters appear misty and run one into the other or seem double. And still further, in order to see more easily, the light is often placed between the book and the eye and fatigue is soon felt even with moderate reading.

These symptoms indicate an alteration in the primitive form of the eye and spectacles are absolutely needed. Nature is calling for aid and must have assistance; and if such is longer withheld the eye is needlessly taxed and the change, which at first was slight, proceeds more rapidly, until a permanent injury is produced.

There is a common notion that the use of spectacles should be put off as long as possible, but such is a great mistake, leading often to an impaired vision for life, and is even more injurious than a too early employment. Timely assistance relieves the eye and diminishes the tendency to flattening, whereas should the use of spectacles be longer postponed the eye changes rapidly, and when the optician is at last consulted, it is found that a stronger focus spectacle must be used than usual for the first pair, and even these suit but a short time and have to be again exchanged for those of a still stronger power; and these frequent changes become a matter of necessity, which unless judiciously checked, continue during life.

It must not be forgotten that when first using spectacles they

are not required during daylight, but only for reading, etc. by artificial light, and it may be from six months to five years from the time of first adopting them ere they will be required for day use.

The spectacles used for correcting long sight are called convex. (Cx.)

A great many machines have been invented for testing sight but they are all more or less useless, and it seems that the more expensive an optometer is, the worse it is. We recommend a test type that is a series of different sized type, or even a newspaper.

After having judged what focus the patient requires, get them to read the small print; if they hold it away off they require a stronger spectacle, if they hold it too near their eyes give them a weaker one.

In trying the first pair you will find it as well to go by the following table of ages:

Age in years	Convex glass required
18	18
20	18
22	18
24	18
26	18
28	18
30	18
32	18
34	18
36	18
38	18
40	18
42	18
44	18
46	18
48	18
50	18
52	18
54	18
56	18
58	18
60	18
62	18
64	18
66	18
68	18
70	18
72	18
74	18
76	18
78	18
80	18
82	18
84	18
86	18
88	18
90	18
92	18
94	18
96	18
98	18
100	18

The weakest power of glass with which a person can read distinctly at a distance of fourteen inches is the glass equated.

Short Sight. Short sight is often present at birth, but is little noticed nor its inconvenience felt until study becomes imperative. When this occurs the power employed should be always slightly under that needed to remedy the defect, otherwise the eye will gradually accommodate itself to the lenses and require constantly an increase of power. In all cases leave some little for the adjustment of the eye to do, then you may, after a time diminish the power of the lenses needed.

The spectacles used for correcting short sight are called concave. (cve.)

For fitting find the farthest point at which small print can be read without spectacles, measure the distance from the eye to the print in inches, and add half this distance to itself and the result will be the number of concave lense required for distant vision.

For example, if the patient holds the print six inches from the eye, give number nine concave lense. If any glass is required for reading it will generally be about one-half the power of that required for seeing at a distance. If number ten concave glass is required for seeing at a distance, number twenty will be required for reading.

Give the weakest possible power of lense to near sighted persons that will give satisfactory vision. Lenses that make the object appear smaller or very bright are too strong.

Persons using a number twelve or weaker generally use the same glass for all purposes.

H. G. LEVETUS.

Editor TRADER,—

SIR,—There is a report current that a gentleman of the boot making persuasion has lately taken strongly to the jewelry business, having made several sales of watches, supplied to him by a wholesale jeweler—on the list. You will put both feet, armed with boots, down on this, Mr. Editor.

I am sure if such is the case, the merchant who supplied them, if he becomes known, will be likely to have a very stern experience of boots, before he is much older.

Yours respectfully,

JNO. W. CAMPBELL.

[Although we publish this letter we think that the proper course for the jewelers in any town to pursue who have to meet this kind of competition, is to find out the name of the wholesale firm thus violating their contract and get them cut off from the Association as they assuredly would be could such a charge be substantiated.—Ed. TRADER.]