

almost nothing to call his own ; such a state of things would, of course, be intolerable, and would lead in the end to the most disastrous consequences. For my own part, I should rejoice to see a much more widely diffused knowledge of ophthalmology and otology than at present obtains. Time and again I have been told by well-educated and successful practitioners that they know nothing about diseases of the eye and ear. I am always pained and grieved to hear such a confession. Surely there is something wrong with the system of education that sends men forth by the thousand, so badly prepared, into regions where they *must* treat diseases of these organs, however ignorant they may be of the subject. Surely the organs which represent the two most important of the five senses, which are the most exquisite pieces of mechanism in the animal economy, the avenues through which almost all knowledge is gained, and the source of nearly all the pleasure of life, are worth knowing something about. What, then, can be the reason of this lamentable, this deplorable want of knowledge ? It is simply this : The subjects have not been made compulsory in the medical curriculum, and most students will not study anything that does not aid them to pass their examinations. I do not blame them for this, but I know full well how keenly the deficiency is felt in after years. For some reason, which I cannot exactly define, there seems to be an idea abroad that the study of the eye and ear is too intricate and too difficult for the student to undertake. I should like to dispel this illusion, and I think I shall succeed in doing so if you will pay attention to what I am going to say :

I have no hesitation in asserting, most emphatically, that with the exception of a few points, which may safely be left to the specialist, there is really nothing either in ophthalmology or otology which cannot be readily or speedily mastered by an ordinary student during his term of pupillage. The great majority of all diseases of the eye, including most of those which commonly impair or destroy vision, are of an external character, and far more easy of diagnosis and treatment than are the diseases of the internal organs of the body. A glance at the report of the ophthalmic out-patient department of the Montreal General