

THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES 11
OF BLINDNESS.

world what it is we lack. We must explain the nature of our limitation, and keep on explaining it until a better understanding of our position prevails. The gain many not be ours, but it will help to make it easier for the blind of future generations.

Of course, many of our more obvious disadvantages are understood by everybody. In blindness, all the pleasures of the eyes are lost, the language of smiles and glances, the spectacles of panorama and of drama, the sculptor's and painter's art, the wonders of the firmament, and the greater part of nature's stupendous grandeur and magnificence. These pleasures are completely lost ; there may be compensation, but there is no restitution. I am aware that many persons hold mistaken notions of their powers of vision, conceiving it to be, as Bishop Berkely puts it, "like the Irishman's gun, which was so constructed, he said, that it would shoot around a corner." I am aware, too, that much of what ordinary people see