

OPHTHALMOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.

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Obligatory Teaching of Otology.

In the December *Annals of Otology, Rhinology and Laryngology* (1904), Professors Gradenigo and Politzer, of Vienna, strongly urge, in separate articles, the necessity for the obligatory teaching of otology in the medical schools.

Coffee Amblyopia.

It is a well-known fact that tobacco will cause varying degrees of amblyopia (loss of vision), but it is not so generally known that the use of coffee will do the same. An excellent article by A. E. Bulson (read at the meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology), in the *American Journal of Ophthalmology* on "Coffee Amblyopia," with the discussions in connection therewith, brings out this truth. He says that among the substances which may, through toxic action, produce amblyopic symptoms, unaccompanied by demonstrable retinal or optic nerve lesions, coffee may be included, though ophthalmological literature contains but few and brief references to the subject.

The manner in which the visual disturbance is produced is somewhat in doubt, though the theory advanced by Casey Woods that it is occasioned by a ptomain poisoning, generated as a direct result of the injurious influence of excessive quantities of coffee taken into the system, seems worthy of acceptance.

Two cases are detailed, in the first of which the vision was not half of normal (20.50) and no cause for this defect was ascertainable except that the patient was in the habit of taking large quantities of strong coffee. No lenses were of any benefit.

The patient was directed to totally abstain from the use of coffee, and was given pilocarpine sweats, and daily hypodermic injections of strychnine in increasing doses, beginning with 1.20 grain. At the end of one week the vision had increased to 20.30 plus, and the fields had decidedly widened. At this time the pilocarpine treatment was discontinued, but the strychnine was continued in doses of 1.10 grain in tablet form, after each meal. At the end of four weeks the fields of vision were approximately normal, and vision 20.20 each eye. The digestion and condition of the bowels had also improved. Patient then disappeared from observation and was not again seen until four weeks ago when she returned by request for