

IO THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF BLINDNESS.

Naturally the question suggests itself why do so many people misapprehend the nature of our limitation? How do so many, not only persons lacking in general culture, but even those of superior education and attainments, come to fall into error in this regard? The causes are not far to seek: in the first place, there is the indifference of the average individual toward blindness; to him, glorying in his strength, blindness seems as remote from him as the poles. It will never touch his life. Why should he study it? and, secondly, our own natural reticence upon the subject, intensified a hundredfold by the hothouse character of our education. It is now generally agreed among moral philosophers that every man is in part the maker, and in part the product, of his time, circumstances, and environment, and nowhere, to my mind, is the truth of this better illustrated than with us. Before we, as a class, can hope to escape we must do our own part. We must speak out and tell the