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THE SCHOLAR'S EYE.

VI.

## “WEAK SIGHT.”

THE statement that a scholar has “weakeyes” is made frequently. It is the asthenopia of the oculist. There are some popular misconceptions on the subject which are worth rectification. Weak sight is not a disease. It is a symptom only, and is found with several diseases and diseased conditions. This symptom is often spoken of in referring to a given pupil, as though it were itself an all-sufficient explanation, whereas it is no explanation at all. In like manner, if we say that a given person is weak, that contains no explanation of his debility. It may be from lack of food, overwork, recovery from a recent illness, deficient quality of food, intemperate or other habits, disease actually present, or other cause not included in any of these. Where weakness of sight is part of a general debilitated condition actually known to exist this is one explanation of what exists. Among children of school age this is

not common in this country, where food is cheap and of good quality, and consequently all well fed. The other conditions on which it depends are fairly numerous. They include the several conditions already treated of in this series of papers on the Scholar's Eye. Where the scholar is quite well in every other respect, the cause is to be looked for in the eye itself. There, it may be either disease or some congenital malformation, as short sight. It often requires a most patient sifting and analysis of symptoms to elucidate a case to one's satisfaction. The condition on which it depends being known, if possible, treatment appropriate for each case follows. Complete cure may or may not be possible. It is not to be expected from any single means. The intelligent do not expect a wonderful single panacea for such varied conditions. The ignorant, with credulity rampant, are ever after some marvellous remedy to which they can give blind faith in its efficacy to meet absurdly different or even opposite conditions.