

Optical Department.

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An enquiry recently relative to the word "optician" induced me to consult the dictionary of the century, viz., "The Century Dictionary and Cyclopædia." This is a work of ten large volumes of about five thousand pages in each volume, and is without doubt pre-eminently the most recognized, authentic authority of the age. While at it, I thought your readers would be also interested in the meaning of some other words akin to optician, viz.: "Optician," and more remotely, "oculist," "ophthalmologist," "ophthalmist," and "optics." The quotation marks which follow will serve to distinguish the quotations of the Century Dictionary from my own comments, remarks and applications.

Optics.—"That branch of physical science which treats of the nature and properties of light, of the theory of colors (chromatics), of the change which light suffers, either in its qualities or in its course when refracted or transmitted through bodies (dioptrics), when reflected from their surfaces, or when passing near them (catoptrics), of the structure of the eye and the laws of vision, and the construction of instruments of introspection, as telescopes, microscopes, etc." The "etc." naturally includes spectacles, as they are instruments of introspection.

A knowledge of Optics, therefore, accepting the above definition, means a knowledge of light and its laws.

Chromatics.

Refraction
Reflection
Catoptrics } of dioptric bodies.

Anatomy of the Eye.

Physiology of Vision.

Construction of Optical Instruments.

Each of these divisions are further studied under many sub-divisions, which, taken with *Geometrical* and *Physical Optics*, covers the whole science of Optics.

Optician, "a person skilled in the science of optics, or one who makes or sells optical glasses and instruments."

Opticist, "a person skilled or engaged in the study of optics."

Oculist, "a physician whose specialty is diseases or defects of the eyes; one skilled in the treatment of the eyes; an ophthalmologist."

Ophthalmology.—"That branch of science which deals with the eye, its anatomy and functions, in *health and disease*"

Ophthalmologist.—"One who is versed in ophthalmology."

Ophthalmist.—"Same as ophthalmologist."

Oculist, **ophthalmologist**, and **ophthalmist** have therefore the same meaning, and apply to the same person, i.e., to one (a physician) "who deals with the eye in *health and disease*"

Schools or colleges therefore which deal with the eye in health and disease are the only ones which can ethically call themselves schools or colleges of ophthalmology, and yet every reader of this journal knows of certain so called Colleges of Ophthalmology which have not a teacher connected with them who knows anything whatever about the *eye in disease*, or, in other words, eye diseases. What a farce to call a school a College of Ophthalmology whose teachers and graduates all combined could not diagnose a case of iritis from conjunctivitis! What an absurd sight it is to see a diploma from a mongrel College of Ophthalmology adorning the walls of some unsuspecting or unsophisticated druggist or jeweller!

What a catch-penny trap it is to secure the patronage of the hoodwinked. Not a physician connected with it, and yet they have the audacity to issue an ophthalmological diploma. Is there any more certain method of bringing down the opposition and wrath of physicians who have spent years of time and study at an expense of thousands of dollars to become ophthalmologists? It is unfair to oculists that this cheap John diploma-mill should be encouraged or tolerated, and I firmly believe its whole effort and practice is illegal and its graduates liable—the former for issuing and the latter for exposing such diplomas.

The words *optician* and *opticist* are alike in meaning viz.: "One skilled in the study and science of optics," which skill they will secure at an optical college or institute, and a diploma from which testifying that they are either an optician

or optician is quite proper and right. A competent optician and optician understands the science of optics as explained in the definition above and enables him to fit spectacles to any healthy eye, and it is only healthy eyes the optician should have anything to do with, and the science of optics teaches him what to do with any anomaly of a healthy eye. That should be sufficient for any druggist or jeweller; if he wishes to become an ophthalmologist oculist or ophthalmist let him first study medicine and become a physician.

The following students have just completed a course of instruction at the Canadian College of Optics, under the tuition of Dr. W. E. Hamill, all of whom secured diplomas,

Mrs. R. C. Holcombe, Welland.

W. G. Matheson, Norwich.

E. F. Boerst, North East, Pa.

Miss E. M. Perrin, B.A., Lindsay.

The next class will commence on January 15, 1901, at the College, although the correspondence course can be taken up any time. See advertisement on another page.

Egg Oil.

During the last few years there have been several efforts made to popularize soap made from egg oil, and a patent was recently taken out for the process. The method, however, is by no means new; indeed, egg oil was exhibited by the Russian Commission in the Great International Exhibition of 1862, one quality shown being specially adapted for use in making soap, and samples of the soap made from it were also shown. The oil, by the-by, is only contained in the yellow of the egg. It is extracted from the yolk of hard-boiled eggs, either by pressure or by the use of ether or other solvent. Dewkowsitch gives the physical and chemical constants of egg oil at length in his "Chemical Analysis of Oils, Fats and Wax."

The Canadian Druggist Exchange is conducted by Dr. W. E. Hamill for the convenience of druggists who wish to dispose of or purchase a drug business. No better method could be adopted of bringing together men who wish to sell with men who wish to buy. We have examined the method adopted by the doctor and think he has systematized it to perfection, and a letter to him at 88 Yonge street will bring you full details of how it is done. He always has a large number of buyers on his list.