

illuminants as ordinarily used in offices in order of merit as follows: diffused or indirect sunlight, incandescent electric light, gas, kerosene, electric arc lights, direct sunlight. Evidence of the in-

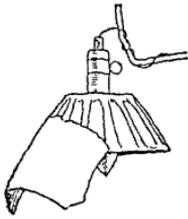


FIG. 1.

jurious effects of lights allowed to shine directly into the eyes of workers may be found in the attempts which clerks in banks, compositors and others frequently make to defend themselves from their own or surrounding lights. Apart from eye-

shades and peaked caps (and even peaked caps supplemented by paper attached to their projecting fronts), the lamp shades of electric lights are often provided with home-made protectors of opaque paper so disposed as to cut off the irritating rays of light. The evolution of an effective light may be studied in many a counting house. Fig. 1 shows the first stage.

One man, whom we may designate as A, finds that the light in front of him affects his not over-strong eyes, and requires a shade, which he ingeniously pastes over against *his side* of the desk. Should his opposite neighbor, B, have stronger or healthier organs, or if he relies upon an eye-shade for protection, *the other side* of the electric lamp may remain undecorated for a time, but sooner or later a second eye protector is added, and then we find the second evolutionary stage as depicted in Fig. 2.

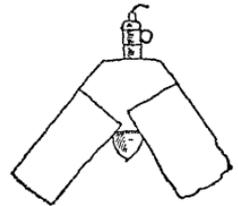


FIG. 2.

In the composing room of one of our best-known daily papers, and forming part of a building to which everybody connected with the establishment justly points with pride as the largest, newest and best-equipped of its kind in this part of the country, the superintendent lately removed there inartistic eye protectors as an offence against the æsthetics of the place! And yet they will surely reappear, unless the still more offensive stationary and semi-naked lights are better arranged. I have seen one or two examples of a further stage (or sub-stage) of eye-protection, where a third piece of paper was added, by C, to keep the light out of a third and more distant pair of eyes.

Last of all come attempts to remedy the evil effects of the *reflected* rays. The near worker often finds it necessary to "prop" up his book or papers at such an angle as will remove the annoying spot or line of light caused by the reflection of the rays from the lamp against the paper into his eyes.