

cient power be placed in front of the eye, the image will be thrown farther back than without it, and so comes upon the retina exactly. Furthermore, the image is now distinct. The glass delivers the rays to the eye, slightly diverging according to principle (2) already postulated. The myopic individual finds instinctively that when rays are slightly divergent he sees better, and to get them so brings the book or other object nearer than usual. Is this instinct wrong? No. Follow gentle Mother Nature—allow it. But a distant object, as a blackboard, cannot be brought near, and it is troublesome to have the pupil go to the blackboard, as well as wasteful of the time of the whole class for this one defective individual. He should use, temporarily or constantly, a suitable glass, which shall do the work required, viz: deliver rays divergent to the eye, and save it from the worry of blurred images. Is this approved by multiplied experience? Yes, in the light of explanations given in the beginning of this article. This is why somewhat full explanation has been given of the optical part of the subject. I might have stated the subject dogmatically. I have preferred to use the reader's reason, furnishing him with data to come to an independent conclusion. Many pupils have an antipathy or distaste for glasses. They should get over it. Many parents object and ask if once resorting to glasses does not require a constant resort to them. You can explain to them the necessity for delivering the rays to the eye in a diverging manner. Can it be injurious to do so? No, no more than to deliver food properly cooked and masticated to the stomach. Will they not always require the glass? Very likely, and they will require their food properly cooked and masticated too. If the glass be not worn the eye will be injured. If our coughing patient will not wear an overcoat in inclement

weather, we are not surprised when he turns up some months later with more serious lung trouble and destruction of delicate air vesicles. Should he have worn an overcoat? Yes. Will it be needful for him often to resort to it in future? Quite likely. If he does not wear such he must take ultimate results on his own shoulders. He can do as he pleases; it is a free country. He can bolt his food too, if he likes, and furnish more work for the doctors.

The Myopia of the scholar's eye is commonly *progressive*, i. e., its degree becomes higher and higher, going from bad to worse. What influences favor its increase? Unfortunately, just such influence as pertain to school life. Four of the six muscles which move the eyeball run parallel to its antero-posterior diameter. Now, by great use of the eye, these and its other anatomical parts are brought into more vigorous and frequent use. The action of the muscles is to compress and so elongate an eye already too elongated. Hence, school life is highly prejudicial to shortsighted children. Space does not permit a more full exposition of this and other more important points. It is enough if the directions given are based upon rational and tried grounds. Rational medicine, with its long history and vast accumulation of facts, often gives no uncertain sound on this and other matters, to which no attention is paid; the pretentious charlatan getting too often the confidence better reposed elsewhere.

Says Dr. Loring, of New York: * "The great period for the development of Myopia, that is, for its *beginning*, is from the tenth to the fifteenth year, just at the time when the body is developing most rapidly. Near-sightedness is essentially a disease of childhood, or at the latest of adolescent life. Donders declares that he never

* Report of Conn. Board of Ed., 1878.