

great difficulty in giving the proper glasses for such cases that they tell their patients to go to the nearest watchmaker or druggist to get glasses fitted. This procedure is very wrong, and most unfair, and is as if an oculist sent a patient for general treatment to a quack instead of to a physician. The giving of glasses, known under the term, refraction, is a most difficult branch of ophthalmology, and often taxes to the fullest extent all the resources of an oculist. Besides there is often associated with the error of refraction actual diseases of the structure of eye itself, or of the addenda of the eye. Let it be thoroughly understood that great eye-strain may be present though the acuteness of vision may be up to the full normal standard, or even above it. This is especially the case where there is an inequality in the two eyes. That is, one eye may be normal and the other only a little removed, or both eyes may be abnormal.

The eye, it must be remembered, always strives to get the clearest image of an object possible. If the eye be normal, this is got with the normal effort, and hence this effort is not felt. However, where there is an abnormal condition of the eye, this clearness can only be obtained by an effort greater than the normal. Hence it is merely a question of amount, time, and the surroundings before the nervous phenomena of eye-strain are shown. Some of them are: Headache, migraine or sick headache, neuralgia, spinal irritation and neurasthenia, chorea, epilepsy, mental disorders, disorders of the stomach and bowels, etc.

The narration of some of my cases, if I had the time, would be very interesting and convincing. Therefore, do not forget that most marked eye-strain may be present with good vision; for it is the continuance and amount of excessive effort made by the muscles of the eye which constitute eye-strain, not the mere fact that the vision is poor.

I hope I have succeeded in impressing upon you the importance and difficulty of prescribing the proper glasses for the eye, and the necessity of you doing your share in showing to the public the farcical nature of the claims of the so-called "doctors of refraction" to their forbearance or to their confidence.

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