

After sympathising with the pharmacists, whose difficult task it is to decipher those illegible documents, the writer adds that the matter has attracted the attention of no less a person than the Dean of the Medical Faculty of Paris. Professor Brouardel is concerned as to the dangers to the public likely to be caused by the execrable handwriting of many physicians. In a recent interview he is reported to have stated that he would take the earliest opportunity of bringing the matter to the notice of the professors of the Faculty.

We might add that it seems to us that the greater the professional status, the more execrable is the handwriting.

THE INVENTION OF SPECTACLES.

The British Medical Journal asks "who first invented spectacles? These aids to vision appear to have come into use about the fourteenth century. The earliest reference to them is in the work of Bernard Gordon, Professor at Montpellier, who speaks of a collyrium devised by him which allowed a person to read without spectacles. In 1360 Guy de Chauliac in his treatise on surgery refers to the use of lenses. The invention of spectacles is sometimes attributed to Roger Bacon, who died in 1294. Further research, however, has shown that in 1285 Savino degli Armati, a Florentine, worked glass into the form of a lense as a help to vision. For him, therefore, may justly be claimed the honour of having invented spectacles. He died at Florence in 1317, and was buried in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore. On his stone is the following inscription :

QUI GLACE
SAVINO DEGLI ARMATI
DI FIRENZE
INVENTORE DEGLI OCCHIALI
DIO GLI PERDONI LE PECCATA
ANNO D MCCCXVII.

(Here lies Savino degli Armati, of Florence, inventor of spectacles. May God forgive him his sins! A.D. 1317.)"