

## 16 THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF BLINDNESS.

can well afford to do without art's baser forms, and perhaps, our very limitation helps many of us to an appreciation of poetry and music to which we could never have attained had not blindness intervened. The response to melody and verse thus quickened in us, to my mind, more than compensates for any loss the dumb arts may entail. To be convinced of the reality of this advantage we have only to compare ourselves with those whose circumstances resemble ours in other respects ; not that our relatives, friends, and neighbors are one whit less emotional, or less intelligent, but they are hampered by the visible, encompassed by a sea of contingent distractions.

Chief among such distractions are outdoor sports and pastimes, and from most of these our limitation cuts us off entirely. I regret this loss exceedingly, and at times resent not being able to participate in, or even witness, certain outdoor sports, lacrosse, baseball, football, tennis, bowls, etc. ; but when I remember my