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PIGMENTARY DEGENERATION OF THE RETINA IN DEAF MUTES.

(Illustrated by Cases.)

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The subject I have chosen for my paper is one possessing interest not only for the profession, but for the general public, illustrating as it does the sad results which follow a violation of the laws of nature by the intermarriage of near blood relations.

That such marriages have been punished in the offspring by idiocy, malformations and deafmutism you are all aware. That a form of blindness, due to retinal degeneration, complicates, at times, this last affliction, will be shown by the cases I bring before you.

Some months ago, a pupil from the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, in Halifax, was brought to me by one of the teachers, who stated that he had been trying to have him fitted with glasses as his sight had been becoming very defective. The optician had not been able to improve him.

He was a bright, healthy looking young man of 25 years. Externally, the eyes showed no trace of disease whatever, but, on testing him with de Wecker's types, at distance, I found vision reduced to an eighth. He could read Jaeger 14 at 10 inches. There was little accommodation. The pupil was slightly dilated and responded fully to light. With the ophthalmoscope I found the lens and vitreous transparent, but was struck by the