

metropic persons, however, being obliged to exert the accommodation of their eyes even in looking at distant objects, it is easy to understand that they would be inclined to contract their internal recti muscles unduly, so as to increase their power of "accommodation." This excessive contraction of the internal recti muscles converges the eyes to a point nearer the eyes than the object under observation, and causes one of the eyes to turn in. When, therefore, they wish to see distinctly with one eye, they instinctively turn in the other.

Out of one hundred and seventy-two cases of convergent strabismus examined by Donders, one hundred and thirty-three were the result of hypermetropia, thus giving seventy-seven per cent. of the cases. Donders is convinced that if all the cases of convergent strabismus that occur in a given population were examined, it would be found that a much larger percentage of the cases are caused by hypermetropia. In the first place, the cases where the convergence is but slight, do not generally apply to the ophthalmic surgeon, and yet these are precisely the cases in which the hypermetropia is the sole cause of the squint. Again, the cases of convergent strabismus that *do* come under observation or treatment, are usually exceptional ones—many of them arising from inflammation, paralysis, &c.

It having been proved by Donders that hypermetropia is a very widely diffused optical defect (he thinks even more widely diffused than myopia), and as the cases of convergent strabismus are not of very frequent occurrence, it follows that hypermetropia very frequently exists without causing squint. This arises from the great aversion which all persons have to double vision. When hypermetropic persons tax all their powers of accommodation to enable them to see an object distinctly, they instinctively contract the internal recti muscles; this causes one of the eyes to converge, and they see objects double; but as all persons have a strong, almost irresistible "clinging" to single binocular vision, they refrain from exerting the focal adjusting power of their eyes unduly, and in this way avoid double vision and convergent strabismus. This instinctive "clinging" to single vision with two eyes can be very simply demonstrated with a weak prismatic glass. If we place before one of our eyes a weak prismatic glass, with the base turned outwards, and look at an object with both eyes, the object will at first appear double; but almost immediately that eye involuntarily turns inwards, so as to cause a very decided temporary squint, for the purpose of seeing the object single. This is the circumstance then that prevents most hypermetropic persons from having convergent strabismus.