

order to know this, he must have some knowledge, elementary, it is true, of the anatomy and physiology of the eye, for without such knowledge he can neither advise as to the glasses required, nor can he, as is so very frequently necessary, counsel that the oculist be consulted. An elementary knowledge of the eye is as necessary for the optician as a complete knowledge is for the oculist. He requires to understand light, what it is, and how it travels, the laws of refraction and reflection, lenses, their formation, properties, how to analyze and neutralize, and transpose them. He has to understand errors of refraction and accommodation and how to determine and measure them. For the latter he must comprehend the trial case and its use, test types and charts, and their principles, also the use of all the various instruments that are applicable for testing and examining the eye.

Further, the optician has to understand how to conduct an optical business, the stock that he should carry, both as regards quantity and variety, and under what conditions the various kinds of frames serve. He must know how properly to read and write optical prescriptions, and how to fit and manipulate frames so that the best effects be obtained from lenses prescribed, and how to take facial measurements for frames when needed.

In catering for trade in optics the great guiding principle of the optician should and must be to do his best to serve the public; this principle must stand out pre-eminent and every other must be secondary. When a customer places himself unreservedly in the hands of the optician, there can be no doubt in the mind of any honest man that he must receive the very best of care and attention, and that no advantage be taken of his confidence. No trouble should be too great to get at what is required, and when there is any doubt of it, when the case is not understood, no glasses should be sold; it cannot be right to trade on the ignorance of the buyer and so cause his confidence to be misplaced. And if this be true, and the proper course for every optical dealer to follow, it stands to reason that those who are not versed in visual optics should not sell glasses at all, because they can understand no case that presents itself to them.

It pays well to serve the public properly; when glasses are bought they are not wanted cheap; the cheap spectacle or

eye-glass, in the opinion of the public, is the same as the article of little or no value. The optician who understands his business and inspires, as he should, confidence in his customer, can always obtain for the article supplied a price commensurate with, not only the actual cost of the article, but also with the time and trouble required in finding the proper thing. In plain words, the customer pays not only for the spectacle or eye-glass which he buys, but also for the knowledge and time of the optician.

And in this connection of considering first and foremost, of doing one's duty to the public, it is of the very highest necessity that the optician should be able to discriminate between cases of defective sight which are due to error of refraction and those which are due to pathological conditions. The optician must be capable of at once discriminating between the cases of refractive error and cases that indicate disease; between simple and purely optical cases for which he may supply glasses, and those which, being complicated, require rather medical attention, or the latter in addition to optical corrections, and which, therefore, must not be treated by the optician who has had no medical training.—*Phar. Journal (England)*.

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