

other. The practice of the medical inspector, on the discovery of such a case in the school, is to notify the parent or guardian of the child that it is suffering from defective vision. Then printed advice is given, and the legend on the sheet (Liverpool) runs thus:

"You are, therefore, recommended to consult your doctor with regard to the treatment of the child's eyes. If he considers spectacles to be necessary, you are particularly cautioned against buying them without his prescription. The sight of many children has been ruined by neglecting this precaution."

This piece of satire is worthy of Dean Swift. It is scarcely necessary for me to say that such advice is printed for distribution as a sop to the susceptibilities of the general practitioner. For medical men in general practice are seldom able to prescribe spectacles. As a result of our present system of qualifying and post-graduate medical education, the practitioner gets no training in refraction as part of his medical curriculum. Even if the accomplishment is acquired later, very few men in general practice have the chance of preserving their skill in refraction or eye diseases.

It is necessary in the children's interest that they should be properly examined by a competent specialist. It follows, therefore, that this work must be undertaken by those who have special experience and skill, and the only part the average general practitioner can play is to act as a sort of distributing agent of the children who consult him to have their eyes "tested for spectacles."

In the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for England, in the section devoted to ear disease and hearing, the following occurs:

As regards defective hearing, the approximate average is given as 5 per cent. of school children; the actual returns vary between 12.9 per cent. for Worcester and 1.0 per cent. for Leicester. The Report insists upon the examination of all children backward in speech, inattentive, dull, or backward at lessons, and of those whose parents give a history of deafness in the child. We are glad to read, in connection with testing, that "the ability of the child to hear the ticking of the watch at varying distances from the ear, though a very convenient method, is frequently fallacious, especially in the case of younger children. The test by means of the forced whisper is probably the most suitable one to adopt generally."