

glass,' or else, when he next meets her, confirm her suspicion of his foppery by utterly failing to recognise her. For people are everywhere too liable to overlook the plain fact that, after a single conversation between a short-sighted person with, and a long-sighted person without, a 'quizzing-glass,' the former is much less likely to recollect the latter's face than the latter is to recollect the former's, when they may meet a second time. Supposing that they talked for half-an-hour at a few feet's distance, and that the former used his glass for an average proportion of the time, he has seen the other's features for hardly five minutes, while the latter has seen his for thirty.

There are other objections to a single glass, besides the misunderstandings it may cause, and the prejudices it may arouse. It is hard to hold in extreme heat and extreme cold—the one induces perspiration, the other numbs the muscles of the eye-brow. People with prominent eyes never hold a single glass without grimacing. In most people it produces permanent wrinkles, or changes the natural curves of one or both brows. In a life-time it creates a difference in power between the more and the less used eye, varying from a fraction of a degree to two or three degrees. In some cases it has entirely destroyed the sight of an eye; in others it is said to have impaired the reasoning powers.

You cannot judge distances with one eye. It is an angle whose sides extend from your eyes to the point on which they are fixed that enables you to do so. The acuter this angle, the farther the object appears, and *vice-versâ*. Now this angle does not exist when one eye only is aided by a glass, for the unassisted eye is so far behind its companion in power that it is practically sightless for the nonce. This defect of the single glass is sometimes felt by its patrons when they are in strange places, and there are no familiar objects about, whose known

magnitude may help them to conjecture distances. But it is more noticeable in the case of moving objects. When both eyes are observing a ball in the air, the angle of which the middle of the ball is the vertex, and the eyes the extremities of the base, changes with the changing distance, rendering the observer's consecutive estimates of the ball's position comparatively correct. But a person watching an approaching ball with one eye has only the increasing size of the ball to guide his estimate of its distance; and this is not enough, even if he knows the true size of the ball, to enable him to tell its position to an inch or two when it is actually within his grasp. Hence some people, who play such games as croquet or billiards (where the ball is stationary before it is struck) better with a single than a double glass, discard the former for the latter when playing cricket or rackets, in which they have to strike at balls in motion. Others who ordinarily use the single glass, prefer even their unassisted eyes to its deceptive aid in games of the latter description.

It seems apposite to mention here that a friend of mine once overheard a lady charging him with wearing a glass only for appearance (!), because he played lawn tennis *without* it. His doing so, in truth, rather indicated that his infirmity was real; for had it been pretended, he would doubtless have worn a piece of ordinary glass instead of a piece of decidedly concave glass. As the former would not have impaired his power of judging distance or affected his sight in any other way, he would have had no reason for discontinuing the sham when doing so was most likely to attract notice.

A double glass, being, as a rule, worn much more constantly than a single one, extends the wearer's facilities for observation. He is more apt to become familiar with the outward peculiarities of his neighbours; to be a critic of architecture, dress, and decorations; to learn to distinguish be-