

## Correspondence.

The Editors are not responsible for any views expressed by correspondents.

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### "Specialism Run Mad."

*To the Editor of the CANADIAN MEDICAL REVIEW.*

SIR,—Reading your articles in late issues of the REVIEW from "Ophthalmologist" on the above subject, I desire not only to endorse what has been said, but to emphasize it.

As the practice of "fitting glasses without charge" has become a common "bait" for the unwary, we cannot but recognize it as a fraud upon a credulous public, an evil of no small magnitude, an infringement upon the rights of the profession and a violation of the Medical Act.

I have personal knowledge of cases where they have professed to "fit glasses without charge," but charged \$15 for a pair of specs worth not more than \$5. This fraud becomes more apparent when we find the adjustment is incorrect and unscientific, seriously injuring the patient and destroying their confidence even in honest practice.

The errors of refraction, accompanied, as they so often are, with ciliary spasm, loss of muscular equilibrium, and eye-strain, have engaged the attention of the ablest and most scientific minds in the profession.

The labors in the studios of such men as Donders and Helmholtz and others have produced and developed this special knowledge of ophthalmic surgery for the relief of their suffering patients. Following their example, some of the best of our ophthalmic work is in this line, such as correcting faulty vision, relieving those distressed with headaches, loss of memory and power of attention, irritability, hypochondria, epilepsy, and many forms of neurasthenia.

These are the critical and troublesome cases with which we have daily to deal, and these are they who fall, innocent victims, into the hands of these fakirs—men with little knowledge and less principle, professing to do the legitimate work of the ophthalmic surgeon.

The rights of the profession are here infringed upon, the patients in many cases seriously injured, in most cases defrauded, in all cases treated for a surgical ailment by incompetent, unskilled, and unlicensed hands.

It is as important and legitimate a part of the ophthalmic surgeon's work as the operation for cataract, equally scientific and requires as much research and skill.

Should not the Medical Council correct this evil?

I. I. PALMER.