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### OPTICAL LEGISLATION.

Several States in the Union are on the brink of optical legislation. In some the optical societies are endeavoring to make the practice of optics a close corporation by appointing a board of opticians to make examinations and dispense licenses to practice optometry, while in the State of New York the physicians are fathering a bill, making a criminal offence of supplying any instrument or apparatus for the relief of physical disabilities, such as artificial limbs, eyes, trusses, etc., unless on a physician's prescription.

Although no mention whatever is made of spectacles, it is presumed that the whole bill is aimed at this one particular industry. It is not probable that the bill will become law, but it indicates the extent to which a class already in possession of exclusive privileges will go in pursuit of more.

Although no similar movement is discernible in this country, still it is not to be expected that we can always remain in this happy condition. The politics of our neighbors must extend, in moral effect, at least, to our community; and if a bill of this nature should happen to pass in New York State, it is safe to assume that a similar bill would be attempted in our own country.

It is the custom for opticians in conventions, or similar occasions, to bewail the present lowly, unprofessional condition of the optical business, and discuss ways and means of securing legislation for its improvement.

Such an endeavor is worthy of all praise; but I have yet to find a case where this effort has extended far beyond a desire to secure legislation to curtail the number of opticians by shutting out the poor ones, or the undesirable ones, by raising some mystical standard of entrance.

The ordinary optical course of two or three weeks is unanimously condemned as being totally inadequate to impart even a small portion of the required knowledge. This, in spite of the fact that practically all those composing these assemblies secured their

optical knowledge in this way; and the loudest talkers are usually the recent graduates. "These schools should be discontinued and long-term colleges, under Government supervision, should be substituted." This is the burden of their cry.

You do not hear of any united effort by opticians to form a school of this kind; nothing in the shape of donations or similar sacrifices is yet visible, without which a technical school of this kind is not to be expected.

The history of revolutionary legislation is, to a great extent, the story of tribulations. 'Tis rarely that radical legislation is resorted to until the evil it is intended to remove is presumably greater than the inevitable hardships which the act would create.

In short, the path to professional glory lies through tribulations and trials, just as surely as in the matter of things moral and religious. The old maxim is surely applicable to the opticians: "Know all things; but first know thyself."

### OUR OPTICAL CLASS.

L. G. AMSDEN, Instructor.

#### A STUDY IN LENSES.

A lens has been described as a transparent object, so formed that it will refract light rays.

The refractive power of a lens will depend upon two conditions, the degree of density of the material of which it is constructed, and the obliquity of the angle of incidence.

A few years ago spectacle lenses were constructed largely of so-called "pebble," or Iceland Spar as the refractive power or rather index of refraction was high and the material was hard, rendering the surface capable of accepting a very high polish and not easily scratched.

Of late years the quality of the pebble has greatly deteriorated, while that of glass has equally improved until to-day practically all the lenses used in spectacleware are made of flint glass.

Assuming therefore that all lenses are made of glass with the same index of refraction the difference in refraction in the various strengths is a question,