

and as student assistant demonstrator. In 1886 the Holmes Gold Medal was awarded him. After graduation, Dr. Birkett served one year on the house staff of the Montreal General Hospital, and subsequently spent two years in study in England and Germany. The appointment will go far to strengthen the teaching staff of this important branch of the medical department of the University.

Medical Items.

SPECTACLES AND EYE-GLASSES.—Dr. G. J. Bull, M.D., of the Faculty of McGill University, Montreal, has lately taken his degree in Paris, and chose for the subject of his inaugural thesis, "Spectacles and Eye-glasses." After having practised about twenty years in America, the greater part of which time Dr. Bull practised ophthalmology in New York, he came over to Paris, and perfected himself in this branch under the guidance of Dr. Javal, the celebrated ophthalmologist, with whom he worked at the laboratory of the Sorbonne. Those who wish to learn how to wear spectacles and eye-glasses should read Dr. Bull's newly published work, which is the reproduction of his thesis, containing, in addition, an introduction by Dr. Javal. The work is most interesting, and of great theoretical and practical value, particularly to those affected with astigmatism. According to the author, for some years a more precise knowledge of astigmatism has produced a complete revolution in the science of ophthalmology. He says it is important to draw the attention of the public to the existence of this optical defect, which is more frequent than myopia and than presbyopia, and which is corrected by means of special glasses, cut to measure, after the indications of the oculist. As regards myopia, Dr. Bull states that infants are not myopic; with very rare exception they become so with age, and more frequently because they acquire the habit of reading and writing at too short a distance. The eye, therefore, becomes developed in a defective manner. It is often said that myopia and presbyopia are two affections opposed and incompatible; but the author affirms that this is not the case, the real state opposed to myopia being hypermetropia. Dr. Bull is the inventor of a new optometer, a full description of which will be found in his