

# CANADA

# MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL

JANUARY, 1888.

Original Communications.

## THE INFLUENCE OF CERTAIN OCULAR DEFECTS IN CAUSING HEADACHE.

BY F. BULLER, M.D.,

Professor of Ophthalmology, McGill University.

(Read before the Canadian Medical Association, at Hamilton, September, 1887.)

The influence of abnormal conditions in the organs of vision in causing headache has long been recognized, but it cannot even now be said that the nature of that influence in all its bearings is fully understood. The term *eye strain* is, indeed, applicable to a very complex condition, in which anatomical, mechanical, muscular and nervous influences variously combined each play their part. Whenever there is a deviation from the normal state in any one or more of these particulars, visual disturbance of some sort is likely to result, and with it more or less disturbance of function in other parts or organs.

In the eyes themselves, such disturbance of function most frequently presents itself to the ophthalmologist in some form of so-called asthenopia. Many cases of this kind are also accompanied with reflex disturbances in parts more or less remote from the eyes, the most important of which, in point of frequency at least, undoubtedly is headache. Headache from this source may attain any degree of severity, from mere discomfort to the most unbearable agony. It may be constant or intermittent, but in any case it is likely, in the long run, to resist every remedial measure until the visual difficulty, whatever it may be, is discovered and suitably corrected. Some experienced ophthalmolo-