Presbyopia, then, is not an optical defect of the nature of myopia or hypermetropia, but is simply a lessening of the accommodative power of the eye.

It is supposed to depend upon, or to be caused by, the crystalline lens becoming hardened as age advances, so that it does not yield sufficiently to the contraction of the ciliary muscle.

In a case of pure presbyopia where, for instance, the "near" point is 12 inches from the eye, vision will remain normal for all points beyond that distance. When the "near" point is 12 inches distant and the "far" point at an infinite distance, the accommodation is only $\frac{1}{12}$. Taking eight inches as the normal "near" point, $\frac{1}{8}$ would represent the normal accommodation. Deducting $\frac{1}{12}$ from $\frac{1}{8}$ gives the degree of presbyopia thus: $\frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{12} = \frac{1}{24}$. The degree of presbyopia in this case would then be $\frac{1}{24}$. This fraction $\frac{1}{24}$ also represents the strength of the glasses necessary to correct the presbyopia, namely 24 inch convex. Practically, we would probably find that a pair of 30 inch convex would answer better, as the weakest glass that can be worn with comfort, is the one that should be prescribed. Again, if a person's "near" point be at 16 inches, his presbyopia ($\frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{16} = \frac{1}{16}$) will be $\frac{1}{16}$, and a 16 inch convex lens would enable him to read at 8 inches.

"There can be no question as to the advisability and necessity of affording far-sighted persons the use of spectacles. They should be furnished with them as soon as they are in the slightest degree annoyed or inconvenienced by the presbyopia. Some medical men think that presbyopic patients should do without spectacles as long as possible, for fear the eye should, even at an early period, get used to them as soon to find them indispensable. This is, however, an error, for if such persons are permitted to work without glasses we observe that the presbyopia soon rapidly increases."*

If, however, we call all cases presbyopia, where the "near" point recedes to a greater distance than eight inches from the eye, it will follow that we may have presbyopia in cases of myopia and hypermetropia. If a person's far point be at 20 inches from the eye he would be called *near-sighted* and if his near point recedes to 10 inches from the eye, he would be also *far-sighted*.

In some persons, as age advances, the "far" point also recedes

* J. Soelberg Wells.