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DEFECTS OF VISION. MILLIONS OF AMERICANS HAVE WEAK EYES. Sight of People of United States Grows Poorer Year by Year—Desks should Be Placed So that Light May Fall Upon Them from Left and Above.

Are we to become a nation of spectacle-wearers? It has been observed by competent medical authority that there is a progressive tendency to myopia in office employees and school-teachers due to the nature of their work and defective light. The direction in which illumination enters the office and school-room is of supreme importance. It is asserted by experts that light admitted full in the face is fatal to eyesight, while light from behind throws the shadow of the body upon the desk and the book. Light from both sides throws a double set of shadows, due to the interference of light waves, but coming from the left and from overhead windows falls directly upon the desk. A French commission some time since stated that from each desk there should be visible a strip of sky at least thirty centimeters wide, measured from the top of the window. The curtailment of the strip of sky is at the expense of the eyesight of school children.

Professor Cohn, of Breslau, examined the eyes of 10,000 school children, and found that nearsightedness increased from the lower to the upper grades. The lower classes in the Latin schools showed 12.5 per cent, and the higher class 55.8 per cent of nearsightedness. Dr. Loring, in examining the pupils in the public schools in New York, found 24 per cent of the children of German parentage nearsighted; of American descent, 19 per cent, and of Irish parentage only 14 per cent. Of 500 colored children Dr. Callan found 32.5 per cent myopic in one school and 11.5 per cent in another. The inference drawn by Professor Beltz, of Pennsylvania, from these observations is that the children of these nationalities, most commonly engaged in study and eye work, have the greater proportionate amount of myopic change, while those accustomed more to outdoor life and resting their eyes largely upon remote objects are generally free from the affection. Further observations made by Professor Cohn revealed the fact that the percentage of myopia varied from 1.8 to 6.6 in the better lighted buildings, while the schools on narrow streets, where the light was more or less obstructed, showed a proportion of 7.4 to 15.1 per cent.

From observations made in the public schools of Philadelphia it was found that the ratio of spectacle-wearing children is progressive, showing 1 per cent in the primary grades, 5-13 per cent in the intermediate grades and rising in the high schools to 12-20 per cent. There are no statistics bearing on myopia as superinduced by faulty light in office buildings, but the percentage must be larger, judging by the number of adult spectacle-wearers who have not yet reached the age when vision naturally has to be assisted by glasses. The observations as to school children indicate overstraining of the eyes to insufficient or excessive light, glaring and conflicting lights, light coming from the wrong direction, too prolonged use of the eye in study without frequent change of focus to distant objects, the use of too small type in the printed page, reading from the blackboard at too great a distance, the bad position of the body assumed in the execution of the slant system of penmanship, causing spinal curvature as well as myopia and other defects of vision. The statistics quoted showing an increase of the affection in America, furnish abundant ground for reflection to members of school boards and to builders of office buildings, and should prompt a timely halt lest the people of this country be reduced to the myopic condition of other nations thus sadly afflicted.—Dallas News.

GAMBLER WAS EXPOSED. Betrayed by a Ring Which He Wore to Frick Cards With. "The story, that John W. Gates, the iron trust baron, was fleeced on an ocean liner by card sharps who used a 'pricked deck' reminds me of a curious thing that happened years ago at Memphis," said a veteran sporting man. "It was in the days of 'wide-open' gambling along the river, and the principal figure in the affair was a strapping Californian who was known as Colonel Henry and who had attracted some attention as a phenomenally successful poker player. He made no secret of being a professional gambler, but nobody had ever detected him doing anything crooked, and he enjoyed an entree to most of the places where gentlemen played in those days.

"One night Henry got into a row with a man in a clubroom, and jumping up from the table where he was playing poker, he struck him in the face with his clenched fist. The man fell like a log, and when he was picked up everybody was surprised to see that one cheek was cut open from eye to lip. As Henry had nothing in his hand, none could understand how the cut had been inflicted, but the victim himself threw some light on the subject. "The accuser wears a ring especially made for 'pricking cards,'" he said, "and I guess that's what he wounded me with."

"An investigation followed, and sure enough, a very peculiar ring was found on the middle finger of the Californian's right hand. A small triangular blade could be raised from the side of the setting and projected about one-sixth of an inch above the surface. Its purpose was to prick the backs of the cards so that in passing them under the

thumb while dealing a man would know when certain denominations were given out. The deck with which Henry had been playing was examined and found to be marked in that manner. At the time he struck the stranger he had evidently forgotten about the ring blade being open. Of course, he was promptly kicked out of the clubs, and he made it convenient to disappear."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

IMPROVED POSTAL SERVICE. Apparatus for the Rapid Collection of Mail Matter. The main improvement in the postal service of this and other countries for some time past has been along the line of increased rapidity of collection and distribution of mail matter, and in all the larger cities wagons have been utilized in taking up the mail from the collection boxes. But heretofore no thought seems to have been given to an improved box which would allow the collector to make his tour without leaving the wagon, it having been considered a sufficient improvement of the service to provide rapid transportation between boxes. Andrew L. Henry of Ladoga, Ind., has now invented a box which makes it unnecessary for the driver to leave his seat during his entire round of collection. As will be seen by a glance at the above illustration, the box is mounted on a pivoted sliding bar, while the collector is provided with a hook, with which he engages the box, pulling it within easy reach and allowing him to extract the contents, after which the box is pushed back to its normal position in contact with the vertical post. The invention should prove especially advantageous

in the establishment of the free rural delivery system, boxes of a smaller size being provided for this purpose. By driving close to the box with the wagon the contents may be extracted without exposure to rain or snow, and this also enables the driver to perform his duties without exposing himself to the storm.

THE CARTHAGE OF TO-DAY. Interesting Collection of Exhibits in the Bardo Museum. A railway now runs to Carthage from Tunis. The summer palace of the bey may be visited, but superficially. A walk through the court yards is allowed, surrounded by thickly latticed windows, but one may not stand still within the precincts. Not on the direct road to Carthage, but easily reached during the same drive, is the museum at Bardo, opened in 1888 in the old harem adjoining the bey's public palace, and full of most interesting results of recent North African excavating. Catalogues can hardly keep pace with discovery and additions, so that of many beautiful things a verbal description by the intelligent attendant comprises all available information. Especially rich in mosaics, the museum contains room after room filled with fine examples of wall and floor decoration, those found in Suza (Hadrumetum) being generally in a better state of preservation than the Carthage remains. The ancient inhabitants would seem to have pleased themselves by reproducing with their bits of colored stone many familiar scenes, and so "fishing" with men and boats and nets, a seashore banquet, quite elaborately worked out the "chase," with dogs, hunters and flying game, appear. In 1897 a very large pavement design was discovered near Zafhrun, representing the signs of the zodiac in a circle, surrounded by the seven days of the week. In addition to the earlier mosaics, there are many exhibiting Christian designs. But mosaics by no means comprise the chief wealth of the museum. Hundreds of Punic lamps of earthenware are gathered, simple but showing graceful forms and decoration, weird masks with ingenious varieties of contortion in the features, tear vials and water jars and fine bits of sculpture. Three statues have been recently excavated together at Carthage, perhaps the most beautiful at Bardo. The central figure in this exquisite group is thought to be a Ceres, and is more perfect than the others. A few fine relics in gold and silver are shown and altogether the Musée Alouf would be an enthralling spot for months of study.—Scientific American.

Summer Philosophy. "If this world had no men in it," said the philosophic summer girl, "life would be like one long visit to the seashore."—Philadelphia Record.

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Cars leave corner First and Washington streets for Woodlawn as follows: A. M.—6:15, 6:35, 6:55, 7:15, 7:35, 7:55, 8:15, 8:35, 8:55, 9:15, 9:35, 9:55, 10:15, 10:35, 10:55, 11:15, 11:35, 11:55. P. M.—12:05, 12:25, 12:45, 1:05, 1:25, 1:45, 1:65, 2:05, 2:25, 2:45, 3:05, 3:25, 3:45, 4:05, 4:25, 4:45, 5:05, 5:25, 5:45, 6:05, 6:25, 6:45, 7:05, 7:25, 7:45, 8:05, 8:25, 8:45, 9:05, 9:25, 9:45, 10:05, 10:25, 10:45, 11:05, 11:25, 11:45.

Cars leave Woodlawn for First and Washington streets as follows: A. M.—6:45, 7:05, 7:25, 7:45, 8:05, 8:25, 8:45, 9:05, 9:25, 9:45, 10:05, 10:25, 10:45, 11:05, 11:25, 11:45, 12:05. P. M.—12:15, 12:35, 12:55, 1:15, 1:35, 1:55, 2:15, 2:35, 2:55, 3:15, 3:35, 3:55, 4:15, 4:35, 4:55, 5:15, 5:35, 5:55, 6:15, 6:35, 6:55, 7:15, 7:35, 7:55, 8:15, 8:35, 8:55, 9:15, 9:35, 9:55, 10:15, 10:35, 10:55, 11:15, 11:35.

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