A SIMPLE ACCESSORY FOR THE DARKROOM

BY

J. SHERNE, F.R.C.S.

LEEDS

IN view of the interest shown in this little aid to the darkroom at the recent meeting of the North of England Ophthalmological Society, and as it did not figure in the programme, I thought it might be worth while introducing the idea to a larger audience.

On the darkroom wall, directly opposite to and on the same level as the retinoscopy light, is fixed a reflector such as cyclists use instead of a rear light. This picks up the light extraordinarily well, producing a brilliant red fixation spot, which even the most myopic seem to have no difficulty in seeing.

I now do the great majority of hospital refractions without a mydriatic as I feel that under proper conditions it is the most accurate method, and I have found this method a great advance on the other methods I have tried of persuading the patient to relax his accommodation.

In refracting the right eye I sit in front of and slightly to the left of the patient so that his view of the reflector by the right eye is obstructed by my head, but he has a clear view with the left eye. He is now asked to keep looking at the red light, so that when I am refracting the right eye, his direction of gaze is straight forward, fixing the opposite wall of the darkroom.

For refracting the left eye I shift my stool slightly to my right, so that my head now obstructs his left eye, and he fixes the reflector with his right eye. This involves using the left eye and hand for the retinoscopy, holding the lenses in the right hand. After a little practice this is not very difficult.

These reflectors are very cheap, and can be bought for a shilling at Halford's or any other cycle store. They are very easy to fix on the wall and can readily be adjusted to any height. Children seem to be more interested in them than in an ordinary spotlight and no doubt other uses for such a simple device will occur to readers.

**FIFTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY**

THE fifteenth quadrennial Congress was held in Cairo from December 8 to 14 under the presidency of Professor Nordenson of Stockholm. The first morning was occupied by the ceremonial opening of the Congress in the presence of His Majesty King Farouk. This took place in the large hall of the Egyptian