car finds himself in almost Cimmerian darkness and more or less dazzled and "disoriented." Now it is an unfortunate and very stupid fact that as the law stands at present the cyclist does not require to carry a rear light. What is to become of him if he happens to be just about the point of meeting of the two cars and travelling in the same direction as the one whose driver has extinguished his headlights and cannot see anything? A man with a wheelbarrow or a woman with a perambulator is in exactly the same predicament, to say nothing of the pedestrian and the dog, who are both unlighted. Owing to the present interregnum between D.O.R.A. regulations and the new regulations which will come in time, matters are worse than need be, but most of those who know the meaning of dark roads full of all sorts of traffic and possibly without footpaths have no use for switch twiddling courtesies. The latter may be good enough for town and suburban driving, but are in the highest degree dangerous on really dark roads.

Yours, etc.,

ERNEST THOMSON.

[A leader on this switching off of headlights was published in the *Autocar* of November 19, 1921, subsequent to the writing of above.—EDITOR.]

IMPROVEMENT OF VISIBILITY

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

SIR,—In the present number of the Journal I observe that there is an Annotation entitled "Improvement of Visibility," in which the polarization of light from reflecting surfaces is referred to. It may be a well-known fact, but, whether so or not, I have for long had the idea that polarization is the cause of the excessive skin bronzing which is associated with fishing excursions and sea voyages. Now, the point of this letter is that if such skin bronzing should turn out to be materially lessened or prevented by the wearing of tourmaline spectacles, we are going to have not only that rest to the eyes to which the writer of the annotation refers, but also two light patches about the skin of the lids which may give us when on holiday somewhat the appearance of the famous "white-eyed Kaffir," with this difference that whereas he had, I believe, one white eye, we shall have two.

Yours, etc.,

ERNEST THOMSON.