A Portrait of Professor Priestley Smith

On December 14, 1928, an interesting ceremony took place at the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, when Mr. Priestley Smith, Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology in the University of Birmingham, was presented with his portrait in appreciation of his connection with the hospital, which has lasted for more than half a century.

The portrait is by Mr. Harold Speed, and Mr. Priestley Smith, in replying to the presentation, asked that it might be hung in the Board Room of the hospital. It is a great and not a very common honour for a portrait of a member of the medical profession to be hung in a public institution during the lifetime of the original; we congratulate the hospital in thus receiving a portrait of one who all his life long has been an example to his city, worthy to be esteemed and held in honour and affection. And we congratulate Mr. Priestley Smith who, in addition to being Professor in Birmingham, has for many years been regarded as pre-eminent in the world of ophthalmology, and a master of clear cut thought and speech. We know that the honour is well deserved and we know that it is one that will be a source of great gratification to him, to remember in the evening of his life the kindly feelings of his friends and the citizens of the great city of which he is a leading member. We feel sure that British ophthalmologists and, indeed, many others, will wish to possess a replica of what, we understand, is an excellent portrait, and it is to be hoped that an opportunity of doing so will be afforded them.

Mescal

Those of our readers who made a conscientious effort to study the details of the erudite Bowman Lecture of 1925 on the Psychology of Vision will be relieved to hear of a simpler method of investigation. Like many other labour-saving devices it comes from the other side of the Atlantic and takes the form of a drug known as mescal or peyotl. This particular poison is obtained from the Echinocactus Williamsii and is in common use among the Indians of Mexico and even of some of the southern of the United States. It already possesses quite a respectable bibliography of its own, and has recently formed the subject of one of the Psyche Miniatures. The author, Professor Klüver, Columbia University, gives a good account of the various experiments and their effects. Dr. Macdonald