

the principles of optics is essential for a proper understanding of the eye as an optical apparatus and for the study of refraction. This book composed from the substance of lectures given to the students taking the D.O.M.S. course at Moorfields Eye Hospital contains all the essentials that an ophthalmologist should know about optics and the refraction of the eye.

Methods of examination in common use are fully described. The researches of Fincham on accommodation and the rôle of the lens capsule have been added, otherwise there are no fundamental changes in the 2nd edition. The book has been carefully revised, is well produced and illustrated and affords much interest in its reading.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

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### THE "FIRLE" EYE MAGNET

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*To the Editors of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.*

SIRS,—The magnet is a well established instrument in ophthalmic surgery for the removal of foreign bodies of iron or steel from the eye. There are splendid electro-magnets which are regularly used for the removal of foreign bodies from within the eye. But few surgeons use a magnet for superficial foreign bodies; probably because it is more expeditious to use a spud than prepare the electro-magnet, and until now ordinary magnets have been too



weak for effective usage. Now, an English firm (Gowllands of Croydon) have manufactured a most effective hand magnet which should be of much service to ophthalmic surgeons working in districts where iron and steel works are numerous, and foreign bodies in the eyes of workmen common. This magnet is a cylindrical bar of steel 4 in. long and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diameter—weighing  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ounces. It is of a steel alloy with high cobalt content, it has a lower density and a much more lifting force than the old carbon steel magnets. It does not suffer from ageing, and is stable at fairly high temperatures, and under ordinary mechanical shock. Also, it is stated to be very resistant to artificial ageing by external magnetic fields, e.g., direct current apparatus or near lightning flashes. Its lifting power is amazing; a one-pound weight from the kitchen scales was lifted and held with ease!

One pole of the magnet is drilled to receive interchangeable pole pieces with probe ends; of these there are four. The whole is chromium-plated. The pole pieces may be boiled, but the magnet is better sterilised by soaking in alcohol or 5 per cent. carbolic solution.

The instrument was supplied to me by Messrs. George Spiller, Ltd., of 32, Wigmore Street, London, W.1, to whom ophthalmic surgeons should refer.

N. BISHOP HARMAN.

108, HARLEY STREET, LONDON, W.1

March 6, 1939.

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## NOTES

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### Death

IT is with regret that we record the death on March 14 of Mr. Donald Gunn at an advanced age. Qualifying M.R.C.S. in 1883 he took the Fellowship in 1889 and from 1889 to 1891 was House Surgeon at Moorfields as a colleague of the late D. J. Wood, of Cape Town, and the two remained fast friends throughout life. Gunn was elected to the staff of the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital in 1895 and did much good work both as a clinician and pathologist. He was also on the staff at Great Ormond Street. A notable career in ophthalmology seemed open to him when he retired in 1902, owing to ill health. All his life he was interested in art and literature and this, with travelling, sufficed for him. It was characteristic of the man that his death was recorded on the front page of *The Times* with the mere date and name, not even his F.R.C.S. being