The Standardization of the Illumination of Test-cards and Perimeters

Readers may remember that the preliminary report dealing with the standardization of test-cards and perimeters submitted by a joint committee of the American Illuminating Engineering Society and of the American Ophthalmological Society was noticed in these columns in 1917 (p. 757). A further report is now to be found in the last volume of the Transactions of the last-named Society. An account is given of some additional data that have been studied. The light should possess, as nearly as possible, the quality of daylight. For practical purposes this may be secured in the Corning "daylite" screen, which may be used with either electricity or gas as the illuminant. The intensity of the light should be such that, when installed, it represents the maximum of the range through which the illumination may vary without materially influencing the visibility of the test objects. With either electricity or gas this requirement may be fulfilled. It is desirable that the light should be readily controlled, which can be secured only when electricity is employed as the illuminant. The light should be uniform in intensity and evenly distributed over the surface of the chart. This may be met with electricity or gas, although not satisfactorily with either. The light should be so arranged that reflected light from the surface of the chart is deviated from a perpendicular to the chart. This desideratum must be met by variations of the lights adapted to the method of display of the test-objects. Other requirements are (A) the surroundings should be of subdued hue, and of an order of brightness not greater than that exhibited by a moderately light grey under illumination equal to that of the test chart; and (B) the chart and the patient are to be so arranged that no light-source, window, or other spot of light brightness shall be visible to the patient while he is engaged observing the test-chart.

The committee considers as a suitable illumination equipment for a consulting room, and as adaptable for a centre where large numbers of men are examined, two "daylite" lamps of 72 watts, contained in a rectangular box, the back of which is concave within, and the front enclosed with a removable plate of frosted glass. The lamps are placed at the upper and lower thirds of the container. The inner concave back is bright, and acts as a reflector. The box may be attached to the wall by adjustable arms, so that the distance of the box from the card may be varied, and the angle of reflection of the light upon the surface of the chart altered.
The question of the illumination best suited for perimeter measurements will be reserved for a later report. The question of proper colours for the perimeter is correlated with that of proper illumination. But the committee, from a standpoint of light value, recommends the set submitted by Weiss & Sons, of London, decided upon some years ago at the Heidelberg Congress.

Medal for Research of the American Ophthalmological Society

Dr. Lucien Howe, of Buffalo, has given to the American Ophthalmological Society the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, the income from which is to provide a suitable gold medal for a thesis on ophthalmology, open to candidates, whether members or not of the Society in question. The competing essays may deal with (a) an original investigation of some phase of ophthalmology, or (b) the discovery of some new method of examination or treatment of the eyes. The gift is not offered free of some stipulations, of which the chief are: 1. That the Society shall be incorporated, a legal process that in the State of New York offers no particular difficulty; 2. That the principal be deposited in the Society’s name with the Metropolitan Trust Company of New York, or some other trust company, with instructions to pay the interest annually to the treasurer of the Society; 3. That if no thesis presented during a given year is thought worthy to be awarded the medal, the interest for that year is to be added to the principal of the fund; 4. That as the money at the disposal of the Society will thus gradually increase, the Society will be at liberty to establish two or more such prizes; 6. That if the American Ophthalmological Society gives up or forfeits its certificate of incorporation, or ceases for more than three consecutive years to hold its annual meeting, the principal shall become the property of the Section of Ophthalmology of the American Medical Association.

Monument to the Memory of Brisseau

A movement has been started in Belgium to raise a monument to the memory of Michel Brisseau, at Tournai, where he was born in 1676, and a French committee has also been formed to invite subscriptions towards the desired object, and to help in every way the work of their Belgian colleagues. Brisseau was the first to demonstrate the seat of the opacity in cataract. As readers know, he performed depression upon the eye of a dead soldier affected during life with cataract, and then opening the eye found that the opacity he had depressed into the vitreous was in fact the crystalline lens. When he placed his observation and conclusions before the