candidates who presented themselves for the second part 6 were referred.

An indirect benefit to ophthalmology, arising out of the establishment of the Diploma, has been the stimulus it has given to the study of the preliminary scientific subjects upon which the practice of ophthalmology ought always to be based.

The few classes held in former days dealing specially with ophthalmic anatomy, physiology, and optics, were but scantily attended. Now that an examination in these subjects has to be passed to obtain the Diploma, a demand for instruction in them has arisen. We find that at three of the special ophthalmic hospitals in London the necessary provision to meet this demand is being made.

At the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, Moorfields, special courses in the preliminary subjects are held twice a year, immediately preceding the date of the examination. The lectures on physiology are given by one of the surgeons of the hospital, Mr. Herbert Parsons, F.R.S., lectures on anatomy are given by Mr. Hillman, demonstrator of anatomy at the Middlesex Hospital. Lectures on optics are given by Mr. Hopwood, lecturer on physics at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

In conjunction with the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital a complete course in the subjects for Part I of the examination for the Diploma, is held at King's College, lasting over a period of four weeks. The Central London Ophthalmic Hospital also advertises courses of instruction in these subjects arranged in conformity with the requirements of the Conjoint Board for the Diploma.

At the National Hospital for Paralyzed and Epileptic a special course of lectures and demonstrations in the neurological aspects of ophthalmology has also been instituted in view of this examination, and has been well attended.

Ophthalmic surgeons of the present day, when they recall the somewhat haphazard fashion in which they had to acquire instruction in these fundamental scientific bases of their art, may well envy the coming generation the new facilities which are now provided for them.

The Standardization of the Axes of Cylindrical Lenses

The report on the standardization of the notation of the axes of cylinders was published in this Journal (July, 1921).

The Council of British Ophthalmologists considered in detail eight different notations in use, and gave good reasons for the adoption of one of them, namely, in their own words, "That in
which a similar notation is employed for each eye, the zero lying at the observer's left side and the scale being read below the horizontal with 90° at the bottom and 180° at the right side."

We know that a surgeon often hesitates to change the method he has become accustomed to, but the Council points out sound reasons for the general adoption of one standard and we would like to draw the attention of practitioners to the advantage of following their advice. If it was adopted at the hospital clinics it would soon become universal, and we venture to think the inconvenience to those at present in practice would soon disappear.

The method suggested is now the standard notation of opticians who usually transcribe all prescriptions given them into it before sending them into the workshop. The most important point of all is to get everyone to use the same method, and it would help to hasten this event, if some of the leading London clinics would send a note for publication in this Journal to say that it was the method that they advised and used.

The White Spot Disease of Salmon

The severe drought of this summer has caused the appearance of a disease in salmon called the white spot disease. The name is derived from a white spot that appears in a depression over the brain and is accompanied by complete blindness. The disease was also noted in the severe drought of 1880 in the Lewis by Captain Newall. The Fishing Gazette of September 24 publishes a letter from Mr. W. L. Calderwood, Inspector of Salmon Fisheries for Scotland, in which he states that fish do go blind from the effects of bright light from which they are unable to escape. He had also examined several affected fish in 1905. He gives a drawing of the head of an affected fish, and adds that in bad cases the blotches may extend