familiar with glassworkers' cataract among the bottlemakers of Sunderland, found the same condition in tinplate rollermen in the South Wales iron works. We are fortunate in being able to publish in this number of the Journal communications on the subject from these three gentlemen.

Additional importance is attached to the discovery because this form of cataract in ironworkers is not scheduled under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Consequently the sufferers are placed at a disadvantage as compared with their colleagues in the glass trade. The evidence adduced by Messrs. Cridland, Roberts, and Healy is so conclusive that there is every reason to hope that the Home Office will take steps to remove this anomaly, and in the meantime the Glassworkers' Cataract Committee of the Royal Society are taking steps to this end.

The Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Ophthalmic surgeons are agreed that their branch of surgery should be directly represented on the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, and this view is, we think, shared by many of their colleagues whose professional work is less specialized. Until comparatively recent times the Council always included some surgeons who practised both general and ophthalmic surgery, who were prominent figures in the ophthalmological world and fitting representatives of ophthalmic medicine and surgery; such for example were Sir Jonathan Hutchinson and Mr. J. Whitaker Hulke, to mention only two well known members of the Council of bygone days. In later years two surgeons engaged solely in the practice of ophthalmology served on the Council; they were Sir John Tweedy, who was elected President of the College in 1903, and Mr. Richardson Cross of Clifton. Since the latter retired in 1914, no ophthalmologist has occupied a seat on the Council, a fact which, in our opinion, is to be regretted. The recent establishment of a diploma in ophthalmic medicine and surgery by the Conjoint Board of the Royal Colleges, the question of a higher diploma in ophthalmology at the Royal College of Surgeons now under consideration, the widening interest in the education and training of those desirous of practising as ophthalmic surgeons (evidenced by the institution of the above and other examinations) all lend support to our contention.

At the forthcoming election to the Council, Mr. J. Herbert Fisher is a candidate in the interests of this special branch of surgery, and his qualifications to represent ophthalmology are beyond question. As Ophthalmic Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, and formerly Dean of its Medical School, as Surgeon to the Royal London
Ophthalmic Hospital, and as President of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, he has been and is intimately concerned with the teaching of ophthalmology to undergraduate and post-graduate students, and with the qualifications which are indubitably requisite in applicants for the position of ophthalmic surgeon to hospitals and infirmaries and for ophthalmic posts under the Ministry of Health, the Board of Education, and the County Councils. The votes of Fellows of the College who are ophthalmic surgeons will not alone suffice to secure Mr. Fisher's election, and it is to be hoped that other voters will recognize the importance of securing the due representation of ophthalmology on the Council.

The Guild of Blind Gardeners

The letter which we publish in this issue under the signature of Mrs. Adolphus Duncombe, is one which is sure to command the sympathetic attention of ophthalmic surgeons. Mrs. Duncombe is a lady well known in London society, and is another illustration of the magnificent courage with which men and women, who having lost their sight after many years of the fullest enjoyment of it, have refused to bow to misfortune and determine instead to spend themselves in the service of those to whom life has offered fewer alleviations when overtaken by the disaster of blindness. A keen gardener in former days, she has drafted a scheme for a School of Gardening and Farming for the Blind, and has enlisted the services of a number of well known people, including several ophthalmic surgeons. "The object of the Guild is to encourage the blind to undertake gardening as a healthy and interesting occupation in addition to any sedentary work they may be engaged in," as well as to fit those, who desire to do so, to earn a living thereby. Mrs. Duncombe and her colleagues are most anxious to get into full touch with ophthalmic surgeons and other medical men, whose work brings them into contact with the class of people in whose interests this work is undertaken.

ABSTRACTS

I.—MYOPIA

Edridge-Green, F. W.—On the cause and prevention of myopia. Lancet, March 5, 1921.

In his Arris and Gale Lecture, Edridge-Green re-states, and in some respects amplifies, the argument originally published in the