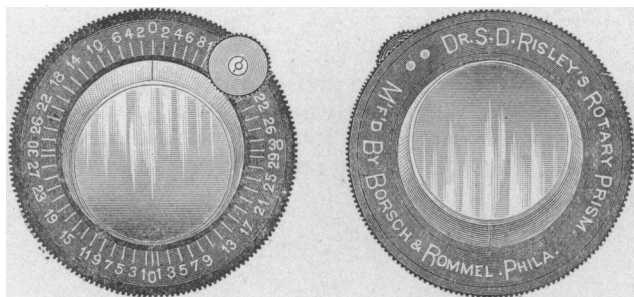


A NEW ROTARY PRISM.*

BY S. D. RISLEY, M.D.,

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I PRESENT herewith, for the consideration of the society, a new, and I think a more convenient, form of revolving prisms than those heretofore in use.† Adopting the principle first put in practice by Volkmann, and later by Cretes, two prisms of fifteen degrees each are superimposed, with their bases in opposite directions.‡ They are mounted in a delicately milled-edge cell, with a diameter the same as those employed in the Nachet trial glasses, which therefore fits readily into the ordinary trial-



frame. The milled-edge permits its convenient turning in the frame, so that the base or apex of the prism can be readily placed in any desired direction. The prisms are caused to rotate in opposite directions by means of a milled-head screw projecting from the front of the cell. The strength of the successive prisms, resulting from the rotation, is read off on the graduated scale engraved on the front plate of the containing cell, extending from zero to thirty degrees, the combined value of the composing prisms. As constructed it will usually be found most convenient to place the instrument before the left eye, when the rotating screw, with the zero mark vertical, will

* See discussion, page 405.

† It is manufactured by Borsch & Rommel, Walnut and Juniper Streets, Philadelphia.

‡ The strength of these prisms has since been increased, their total value being forty-five degrees.

stand at the upper and outer quadrant and can be readily manipulated without the hand of the operator obstructing the patient's vision. In this position, turning the screw to the right or left will cause the base of the resulting prisms to be inward or outward, that is to say, toward the nose or temple as may be desired, when the strength of the adducting or abducting muscles is to be determined. If the vertical muscles are to be examined, the zero points may in like manner be placed horizontally, by simply turning the containing cell in the trial-frame. The main features of the instrument are well shown in the accompanying cut.

THE INEFFICIENCY OF HYDROBROMATE OF HOMATROPINE IN CONTROLLING THE ACCOMMODATION OF THE EYE FOR THE PURPOSE OF FITTING GLASSES.

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WHEN hydrobromate of homatropine was introduced, a few years since, it was thought to possess valuable properties as a mydriatic, inasmuch as its effects upon the accommodation of the eye passed off very much quicker than that of sulphate of atropine. While it is not denied that homatropine possesses great value in ophthalmology, it is the purpose of this article to draw attention to the fact that it cannot be relied upon for controlling the accommodation of the eye in certain cases of refraction for the purpose of fitting glasses. The following case may be selected as one among several in my practice to illustrate this point.

C. P. K., aged 21 years, consulted me Dec. 26, 1888. Asthenopia came on while in college, and he was obliged to give up study. Test without a mydriatic:—

V. D. I. 0 + ; c - 0.5 d. c. axis 135° = I. 0 +

V. s. I. 0 + ; c - 0.5 d. c. axis 45° = I. 0 +

Ordered hydrobromate of homatropine 3 per cent. solution. December 27th, used solution nine times in sixteen hours; hourly for four hours previous to test.