

William Wood & Co. are publishing a series of books under the title of "Specialties in the Practice of Medicine," and this is one, which is a translation of the third edition (1887), from the German of Dr. Hermann Schmidt-Rimpler, Professor of Ophthalmology, and Director of the Ophthalmological Clinic in Marburg. There have been so many text-books on ophthalmology issued in the last few years that the question would naturally arise, "Why another?" But with all and in every one there is something very interesting and instructive, if not new to the specialist, to be found. The writer, in his preface, tells his tale in clear, concise language, when he says: "This work principally subserves didactic purposes, and is intended to present modern ophthalmology in a form which will facilitate its reception. This requires above all a distinct separation of the different divisions and subdivisions, and a gradually advancing presentation of the subject, that assumes as little as possible. This explains the introduction of the optical and anatomico-physiological data which are necessary to the comprehension of the subject. This appeared to me to be especially important in the chapter on errors of refraction and accommodation, whose mastery is impossible without such preliminary knowledge. As I know, from experience, the wide-spread antipathy of physicians to mathematics, I have reduced it to such a homœopathic dose that even the student who most dreads calculations and formulas can tolerate it without bad effects."

Not only are the errors of refraction and accommodation clearly and simply described with their corrections, etc., but all the different diseases of the eye are in the same manner laid before the reader. The anatomy, the subjective symptoms, course of the disease, pathology and treatment are distinctly and understandingly described. Many old cuts from Stellwag's treatise have been introduced in this translation, which give additional interest to the work; but a little more care should have been taken in looking over them on the proof, and not permitted the cut, Fig. 159, page 458, which is representing the removal of a pterygium, to be placed to represent the operation of iridectomy. The work is really a most excellent one; well written, well translated, printed on fine heavy paper and worthy careful perusal by every physician who has the time and inclination to study anything of ophthalmology. For the student it is a collection of carefully prepared chapters of didactic lectures upon the whole subject relating to the eye.