

Mr. Arthur S. Hoffman
Editor McClure's
New York.

April 7, 1928

Dear Mr. Hoffman:-

Yours of the 26th ult. was forwarded to me at the above address, where I expect to be engaged for several months in research work. I have a (purely honorary) position at Stanford that gives me access to libraries and other facilities, and enables me to pursue my investigations amid pleasant surroundings.

I quite agree with you; the question whether it is better to wear or not to wear glasses is a widespread one, not only of growing interest to the public but of increasing importance to the medical profession. It is certainly a proper topic for frank discussion in a magazine of high standing - like McClure's.

Of course I have been myself interested in Bates' advocacy of his hypothesis since he first suggested a substitute for the wearing of glasses. Years ago I had some correspondence with him on the subject, and I am convinced that the time has arrived for a fair, impartial review of all aspects of the controversy in some journal respected by the community and of large circulation.

The task of presenting the orthodox view of the affair would be congenial to me but, unfortunately, my time is fully occupied and will be engaged in my present investigations for several months; indeed I have within the past year declined several offers akin to yours. Again, a carefully written and properly illustrated paper of the character you outline could not be turned out inside a month, mainly because it is much easier to write a readable, semi-popular treatise of 10,000 words on a subject that cannot properly be dismissed in a few pages than than to prepare a condensed essay within the limit you impose.

Then, frankly, I could not, under present circumstances, furnish the desired MS. for less than \$500. My honorarium was more than that sum for the last work of the kind I did - a chapter in Abt's Pediatrics.

However, if you really wish me to write the article and if you will give me a month after I have studied Dr. Richardson's papers to deliver the completed reply, I will write it for you, for the above consideration.

On the other hand if you cannot see your way to meet my wishes it will give me pleasure to suggest the names of one or two men, in my opinion amply equipped to defend the position taken by the average ophthalmologist. Meantime, I remain,

Sincerely yours

As I am an old hand at preparing MS. for the printer I believe I would be able to dispense with services of Miss Waid.

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Cary A. Wood

McCLURE'S
119 West 40th Street
New York

ARTHUR SULLIVANT HOFFMAN
EDITOR

March 26, 1928.

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My dear Dr. Wood:

Dr. R.A. Richardson of Kansas City has written an article to the effect that glasses are in the long run injurious instead of helpful, and that most troubles of the eye can be cured without them. We are going to publish the article in McClure's and we want to follow it with an article by an oculist of first standing that will answer it, demolishing anything that needs demolishing, admitting any of it that needs admitting.

There will follow a third article by Dr. Clayton P. Bennett of 40 East 41st Street, New York City, as a kind of umpire, he being a physician who was raised on the Helmholtz theory but who has discarded his own glasses in favor of a system similar to Dr. Richardson's and revised by Dr. Bennett for his own use. (Dr. Bates'.)

Our intent is to give both sides an entirely fair hearing. Our interests and sympathy are entirely with the folks with the eyes, not with either side, and what we want to get for the public is the facts. Should people wear glasses or not?

It is, of course, more than a personal matter to all of us concerned. It carries with it an obligation to our fellowmen. McClure's is trying hard to have the truth brought out definitely and forcefully. It turns to you, therefore, with a question as to your position. Would you be interested in championing the cause of glasses?

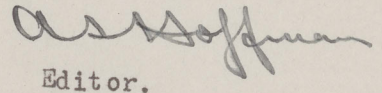
Dr. Richardson's article when first submitted was far from being in correct magazine shape. It was rewritten by Miss Vere Waid, of our staff. The answering article, could if necessary, be treated in the same way, the finished article being submitted for the authors approval before being published under his name.

For the article in satisfactory form without Miss Waid's cooperation we would pay \$300.00. If her services are involved \$200.00

The article should be approximately the same length as Dr. Richardson's - 3000 to 3500 words, though it could be somewhat shorter if necessary. A diagram of the eye will be used with his article. The same diagram or another could be used in the answer. Other illustrations would also be possible.

We are very anxious to know your position in this matter. The question of Helmholtz and glasses is coming more and more before the public, and it needs settling.

Very sincerely,


Editor.

Dr Casey A. Wood,
7 West Madison St.,
Chicago, Ill.

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