

## THE HIGH COST OF PUBLISHING

We have before alluded to the difficulties that now beset the publication of a high-class scientific journal. Recently one of the foremost American weeklies came out shorn of its advertising pages and much of its usual reading matter—less than one-quarter of its usual size—because of a “dispute between two factions of a labor union in the printing establishment which prints the magazine.” Certain prominent publishing houses have proposed the suspension for several months of a large number of publications as the only way to bring about more stable and reasonable conditions.

Our last unpleasant surprise in this direction was an increase of 15 per cent in the cost of printing this journal, estimated on and added to the preceding similar increases, which became effective when notice of it was received last month. We have endeavored not to allow these difficulties to impair the quality or limit the size of this journal. If only the new year will show an increase of 15 per cent in the number of our subscribers, our success in meeting the high cost of publishing is assured.

Such an increase in our subscription list would only represent 10 per cent of the American ophthalmologists who need this journal but do not now subscribe for any journal published with regard to their specialty. It can be easily brought about by active propaganda on the part of our subscribers among acquaintances who do not take an ophthalmic journal. It is a rare opportunity to do missionary work in the profession, and at the same time improve the journal that you get each month.

## BOOK NOTICES.

**The Ophthalmoscope, A Manual for Students,** by Gustavus Hartridge, F. R. C. S., London, Sixth Edition. 12mo, 160 pages, with 65 illustrations and four plates. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co.

A new edition of this work twenty-eight years after its first publication

calls attention to the fact that no work of the kind has appeared in that time to supplant it. It gives a comparatively brief but clear account of its subject, is well illustrated, includes a good explanation of the anatomic significance of the appearances revealed by the ophthalmoscope and urges a good practical routine for using the instrument.

Two of the plates printed in fundus colors will be quite helpful to the student. The value of the other two is more open to question. It is rather surprising to find at this day no mention of the electric ophthalmoscope; and for a book to be read by American students, some account of the Loring ophthalmoscope would be more helpful than details regarding the Morton instrument, or that of Parent with cylindrical lenses. The latter was a novelty of some importance when the first edition was published, but is now of only historical interest.

The book is neatly printed and bound in a form to be readily carried in the pocket.

E. J.

## BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES

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SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN

SIR JAMES MACKENZIE DAVIDSON, the English ophthalmologist, inventor of the cross-thread method of localizing foreign bodies by means of the X-rays, and the foremost radiologist of the United Kingdom, was born Dec. 6, 1856, at Estancia, Santo Domingo, Buenos Aires, son of John and Margaret Davidson. He received a liberal education at the Scotch School in that city. His medical training was had at Edinburgh, Aberdeen and London. His degrees in medicine and surgery (M. B. and C. M.) were received at Aberdeen in 1882.

For a time he was assistant in surgery at Aberdeen, but in 1886 succeeded Prof. Dyce Davidson as ophthalmic surgeon at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. This position he held till 1895. He was also ophthalmic surgeon to the Royal Infirmary and the