ELEMENTARY OPHTHALMIC OPTICS

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Elementary Ophthalmic Optics by Freeland Fergus

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FREELAND FERGUS

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BY

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TO

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PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

PREFACE

The aim of this book is to set forth, in a clear and simple manner, those portions of Physical and Geometrical Optics which I consider essential to the medical student beginning his ophthalmic studies. No one recognizes more fully than I do that the proper province of the ophthalmic surgeon is to treat diseases of the eye; but in order that he may do so with success it is necessary that he should have a competent knowledge of the organ of vision from a physical stand-point.

It is hoped that this small manual will form a suitable and easy introduction to such knowledge. The subject of Physiological Optics is not discussed, since that branch of ophthalmic study is, as a rule, sufficiently explained in text-books dealing with diseases of the eye. My endeavour has been to give in one volume all the information necessary for the beginner, and therefore I have placed in the introduction those parts of plane trigonometry which he requires.

The works of Landolt, Tscherning, Glazebrook, Preston, and others have been freely consulted, and have been of much service. Acknowledgment of indebtedness is due to Dr. W. Inglis Pollock, who did the work of amanuensis, to Principal M'Lean of the Paisley Technical College, and to Professor Peter Bennett, for much assistance in reading proofs.

22 BLYTHSWOOD SQUARS, GLASGOW, March, 1903.

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INTRODUCTION

The pages which follow are an attempt to place before the student of Ophthalmology a clear account of those parts of physical and geometrical optics which are of use to him in his studies. In a textbook which is intended to contain only such elements of the subject as are required by the everyday student, the information given can at best be but rudimentary.

As a preliminary, it may be well to define here those functions of an angle which are met with even in the most elementary investigations.

(B 52)

Let ABC be a rightangled triangle, of which the angle at B is the right
angle. The sine of the angle at A is defined to be
the ratio of the length of the right line BC to that
of the right line AC. In like manner the cosine of
A is the ratio of AB to AC, and the tangent of the
angle at A is the ratio of BC to AB.

Fig. 1

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