

**ON BECOMING BLIND;
ADVICE FOR THE
USE OF PERSONS
LOSING THEIR SIGHT**

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On becoming blind; advice for the use of persons losing their sight by Émile Javal

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ÉMILE JAVAL

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THE
LONDON
CORRESPONDENT



DR. ÉMILE JAVAL ON HIS TANDEM TRICYCLE.

ON BECOMING BLIND

ADVICE FOR THE USE OF PERSONS
LOSING THEIR SIGHT

BY

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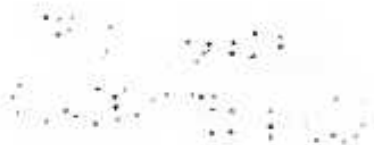
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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

THERE is so much of help and suggestion in Dr. Javal's little volume that it has been a labor of love to translate it, in the hope that it may bring this usefulness within the reach of those afflicted who cannot read the original. It has not been possible to convey all the charm of style of Dr. Javal's text, and somehow the pathos between the lines is lost in the translation. The appendix on the means of accelerating reading and writing has not been rendered into English, as it dealt with phonography of the French language only. I have added also to the last chapter a list of similar useful addresses in this country.

DENVER, COLORADO,
September 20, 1904.

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INTRODUCTION

HAVING lost my sight suddenly at a relatively late age (I had just entered my sixty-second year), one of my first cares was to inquire what might be done to live with the least possible evil with my infirmity. Great was my surprise to find nowhere any collection of advice on this matter. In short, the attention of the friends of the blind, or typhlophiles, has been concentrated either on the bringing up and instruction of the blind young or upon charity organization for the blind poor.

What further explains the lack of such publications as I wished is, that the sudden and complete loss of sight is a relatively infrequent misfortune. Adults whose vision fails little by little gradually accustom them-

selves to withdraw more or less completely from affairs. Some soon resign themselves to passing their life in the corner and to drop out of the world of the living; others, more energetic, but much less numerous, continue, as far as possible, their former mode of life with the aid of others' eyes.

- / Without going back to Homer, we have
- / seen Huber, become blind at the age of twenty-seven, assisted by a faithful servant, continue the work of Réaumur on the
- / habits of bees; Augustin Thierry, blind at thirty, not abandon his historical researches, but dictate his "Récits des temps mérovingiens"; Milton, losing his sight at fifty, dictate to his daughter his celebrated poem
- / of "Paradise Lost"; Rodenbach play an important part in the Belgian parliament;
- / Fawcett, blinded at twenty-five, change, thanks first to a remarkable family collaboration, his career of a lawyer for that of a writer, win an election to the House of Commons, and become postmaster-general. These examples, and others less illustrious, suffice to prove that blindness, seizing a