

Preface - In the selection of a subject, for my inaugural dissertation, I have not followed the criterion laid down by most of the Alumni of Transylvania University. They have generally, written upon the plainest, simplest, and most common subjects. My course has been just the reverse; and ~~how~~ right or wrong in so doing I here offer a few of my reasons, and then stand either, justified or condemned in the estimation of the world. 1st The incomparable loss of vision. 2nd The eye although so useful an organ, is so often diseased. 3rd Because no one is without a remedy for a disease of the eye. 4th Because so many eyes are destroyed by maltreatment, such as blisters, setons, issues &c. 5th Because it is a subject, to which too little attention is given. 6th Because it is a subject that is not generally understood. And 7th because I have been perplexed by ignorant surgeons in treating the diseases of the eye. — — — —

Of all the diseases incident to the human system, none are more miserable than those of the eye. In point of satisfaction and utility it is next to that great commanding organ, the brain. To deprive a man of his life rather than of the use of his mental faculties, would be doing him a kindness, and to deprive him of his eyesight would be, to render him of all men the most miserable. Hence it follows that next to saving a man's life, we should endeavour to save his vision. Yet commanding as is the necessity of saving