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SOME APPARENT DIFFICULTIES OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS IN OPHTHALMIC WORK.

By MALCOLM L. HEPBURN,

F.R.C.S.

Lecture delivered for the Fellowship of Medicine.

THE other day I was speaking to a general practitioner friend of mine, and when I told him I was going to read a paper on the above subject, he said to me, "Are you sure you do not mean the real difficulties of general practitioners?" I assured him, as I assure you, that I mean exactly what my title says.

Most of what I should describe as the real

and serious difficulties in ophthalmic work have been adequately dealt with in the past few years by articles appearing periodically in the medical journals and by numerous little "Aid" books and small textbooks. The practitioner learns from them how to diagnose many difficult cases in their early stages, and having done so is anxious to transfer his responsibility to the ophthalmic surgeon.

The importance of distinguishing between glaucoma and iritis, and the serious consequences of wrong treatment in each case, the difficulties of diagnosing a chronic glaucoma (which, by the way, many experienced surgeons sometimes miss), and the danger of leaving a squint untreated, &c., have been so thrust before the general practitioner that he ought to be well aware of these