

J. H. Ostrander, famous refractionist and optician, pays his respects to the Belladonna family. A 40 minutes' talk compressed into three minutes for the benefit of 3,000,000 busy Tribune fans and friends of these charming colored pages, interesting, punchy, instructive.

"Since my photo appeared some months ago in the Rotogravure Section of The Chicago Sunday Tribune, together with a photograph of, and hearty indorsement by, Sir Thomas Lipton, K. C. V. O., of London, England, I have received innumerable letters asking about my fees, my methods of fitting glasses, whether or not I used dangerous drugs, etc.

"My examination fees are seldom more than \$5.00. My methods are the methods of the horse breaker, the bull fighter, and the lion tamer; namely, quick thinking, quick decision, and rapid manipulation. The horse breaker's maneuvers the first minute after mounting generally tell which is the master. And so, in testing the eyes of strong, healthy school children or adults under 35 years (especially if they are hyperopic), the operator must *think, decide, and act* with *lightning rapidity* to get results before the ciliary muscles grow tense, for often, inside of two minutes, these bucking bronchos, these wild bulls—the ciliary muscles—have become tense, excited, uncontrollable, and woe to the operator who has not acted with the *speed of the whirlwind*, has not lassoed them, who is not master of the situation before this happens. The *man who possesses this master stroke* will often do in thirty seconds that which the stupid operator (even with the aid of drugs) cannot do in thirty days. If you have not thrown your lasso with strength and precision, and if these muscles have gained the lead, have stampeded—'good night.' The patient must then suffer the discomforts of having the eyes poisoned with atropine until paralyzed. The operator may now take his time, but his results will be the results of the eye paralyzed and not the normal eye—a *condition they were never in before and never will be again*. Why fit a paralyzed eye for sober, normal work?

"I am not saying that atropine should never be used as a remedial agency. I am not even saying that there might not be rare, very rare, occasions for its use as a *mydriatic*. I am speaking against its common, every-day use in fitting glasses, against its use as a getter of fees, as an impression maker. I am speaking against the use of a deadly drug as a necessary aid to clumsy, stupid operators.

"If the horse breaker could paralyze the horse, if the lion tamer could paralyze the lion, and if the bull fighter could paralyze the bull, anybody could be a horse breaker, a lion tamer, or a bull fighter.

"In the practice of refraction you express individuality, just as in any other calling. If you are a genius you will function as a genius. A poet might write a poem in a day—a dunce could not write one in a century. Well hath it been said: 'Blessed is that man who has found his work.'"

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