A DISPENSING OPTICIAN MANUAL

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An Introduction to Vision Care For the New Ophthalmic Technician

By

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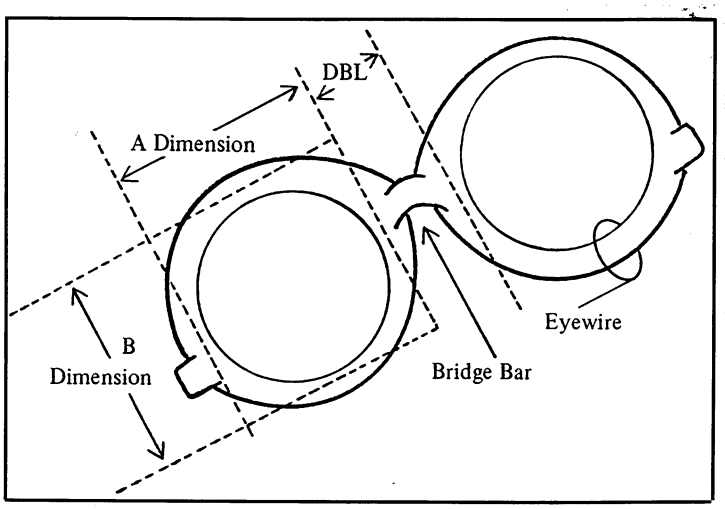

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This book is affectionately
dedicated to
Jan and Heather

PREFACE

OPTICAL DISPENSING is a field that is rapidly becoming an entry position for dispensing vision care. Vision care is a subtle and a vitally important profession for the health of our society. Often the eye serves as a window to the health of the individual. Beyond the technical skills and the art of giving good service, the optician must keep in mind that people rely on their vision for many functions that even the patient may be unaware until the sight is diminished or gone.

It is my hope that this serves as an able text for your study and that it contains concrete, practical information for your own career needs and goals.

A J ZELADA, OD

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INTRODUCTION TO VISION CARE

THE HUMAN EYE

WHEN YOU look at a person's eye, one of the first things that lay people think of is the color of the eye. That is only one part.

The eye consists of many parts. Notably, you will need to know several terms:

ciliary muscle
cornea
conjunctiva
emmetropia
hyperopia
iris
lens
limbus
myopia
optic nerve
presbyopia
pupil
pupillary distance
refractive error
retina
sclera
vitreous

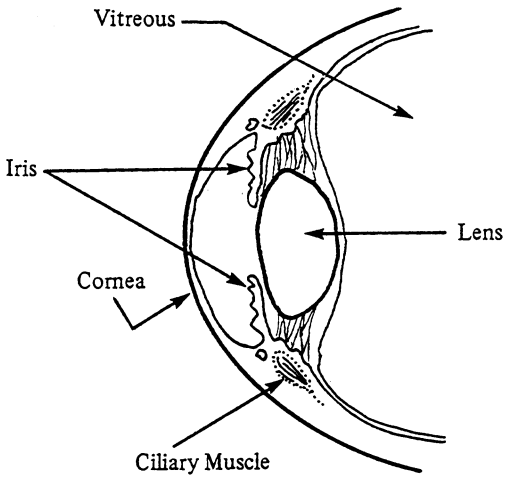

Figure 1. Cross section of the human eye.

Light enters the eye and is bent by the **cornea.** This is where most of the correction takes place. If the cornea had no power (curve or ability to bend the light), the light would not be focused on the **retina.** The cornea does, however, change the light so that it falls on the retina, the cell layers at the back of the eye.

Refractive error is commonly used to describe what lenses a person needs to see clearly in the distance. If a person requires no correction, it