EDITORIAL

THE NEW TARIFF.

To the most uncommercially minded amongst us the new Tariff is a matter of considerable importance, as it affects practically all classes of Optical Supplies.

The preferential rates cannot be of any material benefit to us, except in the case of Prism Binoculars and other Optical Instruments. England cannot meet the demands of the British Optician, and consequently for some years to come we will be obliged to depend on America. Our purchases will, in consequence, be penalised in four respects, viz., the increased cost in America, the depreciated dollar, the increased duty, and the preferential classes in the new Tariff.

The adjustment of the anomalous classification of rolled gold frames, etc., for which Opticians have worked for quite a long while, has had the beneficial effect of reducing the duty on such ware twenty per cent.

In general, the effect of the new duties is to increase the cost of practically all optical supplies ten per cent. and upwards.

LABOUR GOVERNMENT.

As the result of the recent elections in N.S.W., we now have a Labour Government in power, and to this Government, we trust, will belong the honour of placing an Optometry Law on the statute books.

Very many members of the present Government are quite in favour of an Optometry Law, and it will be remembered that some years ago the Grenfell P.L.I. had a motion on the Agenda Paper of the N.S.W. Conference to introduce a Bill, independent of any movement on the part of Optometrists. Again, it was a Labour Government which passed the Queensland Bill.

When all the opposition to our previous attempts to obtain a Bill are carefully dissected, it will be found that conservatism on the part of the Government advisers, due to self-interest and misunderstanding, was the real reason why former Liberal Governments failed to introduce a Bill.

With a Government in power, free from the retarding hand of Conservatism, we may confidently expect that the right thing will be done by Optometrists and the community.

THE CLINIC.

Every State Optometrical Society with a progressive educational policy realizes the urgent necessity for the founding of a clinic in Optometry. The matter has been discussed from time to time, but nothing definite has resulted.

The first batch of candidates who voluntarily or by legal compulsion, presented themselves for examination in Sight Testing were almost wholly comprised of men who had practised Optometry for many years, and whose practical equipment far exceeded their theoretical knowledge. Nowadays the position is reversed. The candidate of to-day is the young man theoretically well equipped, but with no practical experience, for, in States with Optometry, he cannot legally practice. To meet the needs of this situation, the American is well equipped with Clinics in Optometry, and in England a little has been done in the same direction. The need for definite action in Australia is imperative. Which will be the first State to meet it?

GOVERNMENT TENDERS.

At various times during the last few years, Optometrists and Opticians have been invited to tender for the supply of Spectacles, etc., to the Australian Military Forces, and though this class of work appeals mostly to the Dispensing Optician, several Optometrists have unsuccessfully tendered.

One of our subscribers—an Optometrist—was unsuccessful in his tender, and following upon correspondence with the Defence Department, received a copy of the successful tender.

We have before us a copy of the correspondence and the successful tender. The philanthropist, for such he must be, undertakes to supply cylindrical and compound lenses up to 8D in nickel or gilt frames for the sum of 4/- For the same sum he will supply cross compounds to 6D, artificial eyes, and various other supplies. "Goggles with folding gauze, various tints," he undertakes to supply free of charge.

It would be well if such Government tenders be again called for, to remember the existence of such a philanthropist, and go the whole hog and offer to supply everything gratis!