



'Revolting solecism! The people who read advertisements like that begin to feel uncomfortable; they have only one pair of glasses, they are afraid of being laughed at, thought low-class and ignorant and suburban. And since there are few who would not rather be taken in adultery than provincialism, they rush out to buy four new pairs of spectacles.'

### Girl talk

Frame manufacturers considering their next advertising campaign may wish to take note of that passage. The corrective comment to the above, which they probably wish had never been written, is the famous aphorism coined by Dorothy Parker: 'Men seldom make passes at girls who wear glasses.'

But perhaps it isn't entirely true. Two young women, from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, are on record as sending the following riposte to Parker in 1947: 'The statement is entirely erroneous. We would be willing to wager that a survey made among repairing opticians would show that Monday is a very busy day for straightening girls' glasses.' There is even an old French proverb that suggests that Parker had it back to front. It runs: 'Bonjour lunettes, adieu fillettes.'

There is much debate about the need for foreign health professionals to be able to speak good English. A prerequisite for dealing with patients, surely, but woefully inadequate for those attempting to have dialogue with primary care trusts or their successor bodies. A GP, Gordon



Barclay, who was medical adviser to one of the old Family Health Service Authorities that PCTs replaced, was good enough to provide a lexicon of Trustspeak phrases and their translations in *Monitor Weekly* of March 29 and May 17 1995. Here is a selection (translation in italics):

- Need to get a steer on this – *find people who agree with me*
- Informal sounding board – *I will find people who agree with me*
- I think what you are saying... – *here are my ideas*
- What are the ramifications? – *how much will it cost?*
- No time scale – *never*
- This needs a fundamental review – *no*
- I will get back to you – *forget it.*

Two final thoughts. First, what is the opposite of an optometrist? Here's one answer, from worldofmoose.com (as reported by *Reader's Digest*): 'My optometrist thinks my eyes will probably improve. Unfortunately my pessimistrist thinks they'll get worse.' And lastly, a note of caution as the time draws near for preparing the Christmas feast. There was a recent case of a man who was chopping vegetables when some herbs flew up into his eye. Now he's parsley-sighted. ●

## Moving images

High quality slit-lamp images are now possible on the move with Keeler's latest attachment. **Bill Harvey** tries it out

I have been using the Keeler Portable Slit Lamp (PSL) for over a year now. With practice, and knowing where best to place your arms, it is possible to achieve excellent views of the anterior eye (see the review in *Optician* 30.07.10). Only recently it was possible to confirm that the cause of one of my colleague's irritation in the office was a tiny, minimally staining contact lens-induced peripheral ulcer. Keeler has now launched an iPhone holder for the PSL (Figure 1), allowing jpeg still and mpeg movie capture via a smartphone.

The metal attachment into which the phone fits is simply slid onto an eyepiece once the protective rubber sleeve has been removed (Figure 2). A counterweight is inserted in the focusing rod hole to make the whole thing balance better when held. And that is it – you can now take images and

Figure 1



movies of eyes in domiciliary settings (or indeed anywhere where a portable system is needed). The image quality is dictated by whether you have the iPhone 4 (5 megapixel) or the 4S (8 megapixel).



Figure 2

I strongly advise you, if you were to acquire one of these, to set the camera to voice activation mode. When the best view is achieved you then just call 'shoot' at the phone and the image is taken. If this is not done, by the time you have moved your finger to press the 'capture' button, the view has moved. With practice, this is an excellent (and cheap) way of taking anterior images through a slit lamp. I am sure versions for table-top slit lamps will follow. ●

- More details from [www.keeler.co.uk](http://www.keeler.co.uk)