

Study says heavy reading spurs myopia

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Scientists may have an explanation for why so many bookworms wear glasses: The printed page offers inadequate stimulation to the whole eye.

Reading stimulates the center of the eye but deprives the outer portions, which respond better to big forms, of a variety of colors and shades of light, the scientists said Thursday.

In an article published in Friday's issue of *Science* magazine, Josh Wallman, professor of biology at City College in New York, and

three assistants say support for their theory "has come historically from observations that professions requiring much reading or other close work tend to be occupied by myopes, and that there is a consistent correlation between educational level and degree of myopia."

Wallman's work with nearsightedness grew out of a study of eye movement in baby chickens. He placed a white translucent plastic cover — a sort of pingpong ball — over the whole eyes of some chicks and over parts of the eyes of other

chicks.

The covers were removed when the chicks were 2 weeks old and when they were 6 weeks old to determine the effect.

Wallman and his assistants found that the chicks with the full eye covers were nearsighted in all areas of their eyes. But in the chicks with the partial covers, the part of the eye that had been deprived visually had become very nearsighted and the uncovered area was hardly nearsighted at all, the scientists found.

Scott and S t u a r t:

I b e l i e v e the above article is e x t r e m e l y

s h o r t sighted, particularly a s i t r e l a t e s to "Of Birds & Te x a s." Surely, the type and pages are BIG enough, and t h e c o l o r plates provide plenty o f v a - r i e t y. That s t u d y i s f o r t h e b i r d s , o r m o r e r i g h t l y , t h e c h i c k e n s !

H o p e y o u r o w n e y e s i g h t s a r e c o n t i n u i n g t o i m p r o v e .

Preston

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