

TO SEE OURSELVES
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A hard thing for anyone to do is to evaluate himself dispassionately and view himself through the eyes of others. We have been reminded of this on several occasions lately, while reading news columns in which "narrow mindedness" and "bigotry" are referred to. Now, there obviously must be some narrow-minded people in the world; otherwise there could be no excuse for the term to exist. Over the years, however, we have yet to hear anyone admit with any sincerity that he himself was narrow minded. It is always a term applied to someone else.

Similarly, in any given community, say of three hundred doctors. it should be apparent that there must be some who practice poor medicine. If the question, "Could you name ten sorry doctors in town?" were asked of each physician in such a community, three hundred answers in the affirmative would be received. Yet if the question, "Are you an incompetent doctor?" were put to each of three hundred, specifically and individually the answer would be, "No," in each case. Where did the ten sorry incompetents disappear?

All of which reminds us of an incident that occurred a few years back at the final banquet of a regional medical meeting. The honored speaker, egotist and not too brilliant but comparatively young, recently appointed medical science department head was being presented to the gathering. In his opening remarks, he introduced his attractive wife, who was sitting next to him at the speaker's table. He modestly remarked that he had been told he owed all his success to his beautiful and personable helpmate. To which, one of the cynics in the audience commented in too loud a voice, "And of all the people here tonight you're the only one who doesn't believe it."