

## NOTES AND NEWS



*FIGURE 1. Dr. Joseph H. McNinch, Chief Medical Director, Veterans Administration, viewing an experimental reading device for the blind.*

### CONFERENCE ON AIDS FOR THE BLIND

A meeting on the PSAS-supported research program on aids for the blind was held in the New York offices on December 9, 1963.

Reports and demonstrations were presented by all of the contractors engaged in research, development, and evaluation on devices in the

broad areas of mobility and reading. Five newly appointed consultants to the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, all distinguished authorities in their respective fields, offered helpful suggestions.

Dr. J. H. McNinch, Chief Medical Director of the Veterans Administration, Dr. Robert E. Stewart, Director of VA's Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, and Dr. Augustus Thorndike, the Service's former Acting Director and now a consultant to it, participated in the meeting. Dr. Eugene F. Murphy served as Conference Chairman. Other participants were:

### CONSULTANTS

Dr. Edward E. David, Jr.  
Director, Visual and Acoustics Research Laboratory  
Bell Telephone Laboratories  
Murray Hill, N.J.

Dr. Frank A. Geldard  
Stuart Professor of Psychology  
Princeton University  
Princeton, N.J.

Dr. Moise H. Goldstein, Jr.  
Biomedical Engineering Program  
Johns Hopkins Medical School  
Baltimore, Md.

Dr. Richard E. Hoover  
Wilmer Institute  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Md.

Dr. Edward J. Waterhouse  
Director, Perkins School for the Blind  
Watertown, Mass.

### CONTRACTORS

BATTELLE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE  
Columbus, Ohio

Mr. John L. Coffey

HASKINS LABORATORIES, INC.  
New York, N.Y.

Dr. Franklin S. Cooper  
Miss Jane Gaitenby  
Dr. M. Studdert-Kennedy  
Dr. A. Liberman

**HVERFORD COLLEGE—BIONIC INSTRUMENTS, INC.**  
Haverford and Bala Cynwyd, Pa.

Prof. T. A. Benham

Mr. J. M. Benjamin

**METFESSEL LABORATORIES, INC.**  
Los Angeles, California

Prof. Milton Metfessel

**MAUCH LABORATORIES, INC.**  
Dayton, Ohio

Mr. H. A. Mauch

Mr. G. C. Smith

**TRACOR, INC.**

Austin, Texas

Dr. Bruce Deatherage

Dr. Philip Worchel

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, PSAS**

Mr. William M. Bernstock

Mr. Howard Freiburger

Mr. Earl A. Lewis

**CHIEFS OF VA CLINIC TEAMS TO CONFER**

A conference of orthopedic consultants who serve as Chiefs of VA's Orthopedic and Prosthetic Appliance Clinic Teams throughout the country will be held in the New York offices of the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service May 7-9, 1964. The first two days of the meeting will be devoted to lectures and demonstrations on a variety of technical subjects; policy and administrative matters will be covered on the last day of the meeting. A similar conference was held by PSAS in September 1961, in San Francisco.

**PSAS MEETING**

The Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service conducted a two-day meeting on January 22-23, 1964, in Central Office, Washington, D.C., with Mr. William H. Talley acting as chairman.

*Central Office Staff* members attending the meeting were: Dr. Oreon K. Timm, Assistant Chief Medical Director for Professional Services; Russell Williams, Chief, Blind Rehabilitation; Anna Knoll, Position Classification Specialist; Dr. Robert E. Stewart, Director, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service; Dr. C. F. Mueller, Chief,

Prosthetic Appliances and Accessories; Dr. Thomas E. Knox, Chief, Restorations and Sensory Aids; Dr. Eugene F. Murphy, Chief, Research and Development Division; William H. Talley, Chief, Plans and Policies Division; William M. Bernstock, Assistant Chief, Research and Development Division; Joseph J. Ufheil, Orthopedic Technologist; Earl A. Lewis, Prosthetic Research and Education Specialist.

*Area Medical Offices* were represented by Voigt Baker, St. Paul Area; Wilfred Holsberg, Boston Area; Robert Kay, Atlanta Area; Harry MacBird, San Francisco Area; Leonard McCarthy, Trenton Area; Albert Zuidema, Columbus Area.

*VA Prosthetics Center Staff* members attending the meeting were Anthony Staros, Chief, VA Prosthetics Center, and William McMurray, Chief, Limb and Brace Section.

*Prosthetic Distribution Center* was represented by Donald W. L. Smith, Chief, Prosthetic Distribution Center.

The group was addressed by Dr. Oreon K. Timm, Assistant Chief Medical Director for Professional Services, who stressed the value of the long-range plan program in improving medical service to an increasing number of veterans. This need was pinpointed by Mr. R. Williams, Chief, Blind Rehabilitation, who, in discussing the role of the Prosthetic Representative in the Blind Rehabilitation Program, cited figures reflecting the increase in the number of veterans with pathological conditions of the eye, which are due, in great part, to the complications of aging.

The long-range plans of the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service were discussed in detail as well as a number of other administrative and policy matters. Reports of research currently in progress were presented, and Prosthetic Education plans and programs were reviewed.

## OTTO ROTHMAN

(1907—1963)

He was with us all too brief a time. But for the time he was with us, we knew him as a quiet and hard-working engineer. His calm approach to all things—including his last illness—was an example to his colleagues and his friends. . . . Never did we see him excited, and through his tranquil and studious consideration of professional problems, he accomplished much for our program. Major progress in the development of specifications and in our compliance testing program were only a few of his contributions as Chief of the Testing and Development Laboratory. He loved his work, and we loved having him with us.

But above all, Otto Rothman was a gentleman. Courteous and kindly, he never had a harsh word for or about anyone or anything. In this respect too, he was an example to all of us. We miss him.

### **“PROJECT SLIDES”**

Several years ago sets of 35-mm. slides were made available to all Prosthetic Representatives and Area Chiefs. These slides have served as excellent teaching aids and apparently have met a real need in the field. Accordingly, additional slides have been collected; at the earliest opportunity sets will be reproduced and made available to the recipients of the original kits of “Project Slides.” The Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service is cooperating in this activity with the Committee on Prosthetic-Orthotic Education of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, which is organizing slides suitable for various medical and paramedical teaching programs.

### **ORIENTATION SESSIONS ON INCREASE**

The Research and Development Division, PSAS, is pleased to note an increase in the interest in prosthetics shown by various professional groups. More than 200 nurses from a number of teaching institutions throughout New York participated during the past year in short orientation programs. Groups of rehabilitation counselors, physical and occupational therapists, teachers, and administrators of special education programs similarly have visited our New York offices for lectures and demonstrations.

Participants were urged to consider attendance at the intensive courses in prosthetics and orthotics offered by New York University, Northwestern University, and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Prosthetics restoration requires the concerted efforts of members of various disciplines. The interest shown by the groups visiting our New York facilities is most heartening.

### **PROSTHETICS SEMINAR IN ST. PAUL MEDICAL AREA**

Mr. Voigt W. Baker, Area Chief, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service in the St. Paul Area Medical Office, has advised that plans have been developed for a prosthetics seminar, April 21–22, 1964. A variety of administrative and technical matters will be discussed in this two-day seminar. Participants will include VA personnel, commercial prosthetists, and representatives from the Minnesota Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Sessions on April 21 will be held at the VA

Hospital in Minneapolis; on April 22 the program will be conducted in the Minneapolis Artificial Limb Co. Mr. William H. Talley, Chief, Plans and Policies Division of PSAS in Washington, Mr. Anthony Staros, Chief, VA Prosthetics Center, Mr. William J. McIlmurray, Chief of the Limb and Brace Section, VAPC, and Mr. Henry F. Gardner, Technical Assistant to the Chief, VAPC, will present most of the instructional material.