

NOTES AND NEWS

SEMINAR IN SAN JUAN, P.R. VA CENTER

Over 100 people, from Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, and St. Croix attended a seminar on prosthetics and orthotics organized by the staff of the San Juan VA Center, April 5-7, 1965. The sessions opened with an introduction by the host of the program, Dr. J. Chaves-Estrada, Director, VA Center, San Juan, P.R., and a talk on The National Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Program of the Veterans Administration by Mr. Wilfred G. Holsberg, Assistant Chief, Plans and Policies Division, PSAS, VA Central Office, Washington, D. C.



VA Center Seminar, Puerto Rico. From left to right: Mr. Henry F. Gardner, Technical Assistant to Director, VA Prosthetics Center, New York; Dr. E. Blas Ferraioli, Attending Surgeon, VA Center, San Juan; Mr. Thorkild Engen, Director, Orthotic Department, Baylor University; Dr. J. Chaves-Estrada, Director, VA Center, San Juan; Dr. Herman J. Flax, Chief, PM&R Service, VA Center, San Juan; Mr. Anthony Staros, Director, VA Prosthetics Center, New York; Mr. Howard Thranhardt, J. E. Hanger, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia; Dr. C. Jose Ferraioli, Chief of Staff, VA Center, San Juan; and Mr. Bartolome Lopategui, Chief, Prosthetic Service, VA Center, San Juan.

Dr. Peter E. Sabatelle, Chief, Orthopedic Section, VA Center, San Juan, lectured on General Considerations in Amputations, and Dr. Herman J. Flax, Chief, PM&R Service of the same Center, discussed stump conditioning problems and techniques.

A demonstration-lecture was given on Upper-Extremity Functional Bracing by Mr. Thorkild Engen, Director of Orthotic Department, Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, Baylor University, Houston, Texas. He showed how much appearance and function could be improved when modern methods are used to design and fabricate upper-extremity assistive devices. Mr. Howard Thranhardt of J. E. Hanger, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, also lectured.

Other topics included in the seminar were: Mechanics and Biomechanics; Upper-Extremity Components and Socket and Harness Design; Lower-Extremity Components, Fitting Principles, and Socket and Suspension Design; Temporary Prostheses; Orthopedic Shoes and Modifications; Surgical Supports and Elastic Hosiery; Lower-Extremity Bracing Principles and Components; and New Developments. This series of lectures and demonstrations was handled by three participants from the New York VA Prosthetics Center: Mr. Anthony Starós, Director; Mr. Henry F. Gardner, Technical Assistant to Director; and Mr. Thomas Pirrello, Jr., Technical Assistant to the Chief, Bioengineering Research Service.

P&O ABSTRACT AND TRANSLATION SERVICES

Among the special projects planned by the Board of Directors of the American Orthotics and Prosthetics Association for 1965 are (a) a translation and abstract service to provide members with reports on orthotics and prosthetics articles from medical and paramedical journals in the U.S. and abroad, with translations of foreign language articles relating to the subject; (b) a public relations kit for members, consisting of prepared speeches for lecturing to paramedical groups, residents, civic clubs, etc.; a list of films and slide collections for loan; reference lists and bibliographic aids; sample press releases for local use adaptation; other PR material; (c) a companion booklet to "What Everyone Should Know About Orthotics and Orthotists;" and (d) long-range planning conference on internal association policy and affairs.

We particularly welcome AOPA's plans for a translation and abstract service, so necessary to keep up with the many noteworthy contributions appearing in the foreign press regularly. "Reported Abroad," a regular feature of the *Bulletin of Prosthetics Research*, represents our own limited efforts to break the language barrier and bring to readers advances in prosthetics and orthotics around the world.

MILITARY SURGEONS ELECT DR. McNINCH PRESIDENT

Dr. Joseph H. McNinch, Chief Medical Director, Veterans Administration was elected President of the Association of Military Surgeons for 1965.

Dr. McNinch, who became Chief Medical Director of the Veterans Administration's Dept. of Medicine and Surgery on June 3, 1963, had formerly been Director of Research with the American Hospital Association following his retirement from the Army in April 1962. While in the U.S. Army, he was Chief Surgeon in Europe from August 1960 to retirement and prior to that assignment was Commanding General, U.S. Army Research and Development Command.

His professional affiliations include: Fellow, American College of Physicians; Member, Royal Society Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, American Public Health Assoc., Medical Library Assoc., American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Association of History of Medicine, and American College of Preventive Medicine; and Diplomate, American Board of Preventive Medicine.

FREIBERGER LECTURES AT N.Y. ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

On January 12, 1965, Mr. Howard Freiburger, Electronics Engineer, R&D, PSAS, spoke on "Problems and Accomplishments in Sensory Aids for the Blind" at the 8:00 P.M. meeting of the Division of Instrumentation, The New York Academy of Sciences.

Mr. Carl Berkley, Chairman of the Division of Instrumentation, introduced Mr. Freiburger. The VA scientist discussed devices which were designed to compensate for the blind person's loss of communication powers, that is, the skill of mobility and travel and the capacity for independent reading of printed material. Slides of obstacle detectors and reading machines were shown and tapes played to demonstrate the optophone sound signals and examples of Metfessel's spelled speech.

Among the devices Mr. Freiburger brought to the meeting for general inspection and trial were a Bionic guidance device and a Battelle reader.

Among the members attending the Instrumentation Session were Dr. Eugene F. Murphy, Chief, Research and Development, PSAS; Mr. J. Malvern Benjamin, Jr., Bionic Instruments, Inc., Bala Cynwyd, Pa.; Mr. John K. Dupress, Managing Director, Sensory Aids Evaluation and Development Center, MIT, Cambridge, Mass.; Mr. Walter E. Tolles, Dept. of Medical and Biological Physics, Airborne Instruments Laboratory, Deer Park, N. Y.; and Miss Anna Syarse, formerly Technical Publications Writer-Editor, R&D, PSAS.

NEWINGTON CONFERENCE OF PROSTHETIC REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Wilfred G. Holsberg, Assistant Chief, Plans and Policies Division, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, Central Office, visited the VAH, Newington, Conn., on Oct. 28-30, 1964, to participate in the Voluntary Conference of Prosthetic Representatives of the Boston Medical Area.

The 14 Prosthetic Representatives in attendance represented not only all the Outpatient Clinics of the Boston Medical Area but also the VA Prosthetics Center and the VA Regional Office in Newark, N. J. The meeting, which began Wednesday at 1:00 PM and concluded at noon on Friday, was planned and conducted by the Prosthetic Representatives with the Central Office participant, Mr. Holsberg, serving in a resource capacity.

Station officials were most cooperative and contributed largely to the success of the endeavor.

An illustrated one-hour demonstration lecture on VA research in sensory aids was presented during the opening session by Mr. Howard Freiberger, Electronics Engineer, Research and Development, PSAS, N. Y. Other topics presented during the sessions included discussion of all major prosthetic and sensory aids items, medical accessories, the C.B.O.C. program as it affects the PSAS activities, and current and future plans and policies.

The next such meeting is scheduled at the VA Regional Office in Newark, N. J., during the fall of 1965, making it possible for Prosthetic Representatives of the Washington Medical Area to participate.

ORIENTATION FOR RESIDENTS

Along with a number of other interested people, members of the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service have long been concerned with the fact that residents, particularly in Orthopedic Surgery, need to have their normal residency programs supplemented by specialized courses in prosthetics and orthotics. The three universities offering prosthetics courses have done an excellent job of attempting to meet the needs of many residents. However, large numbers in various areas of the country still do not have an opportunity to attend one or more of the specialized prosthetics courses offered at the university level.

Interest on the part of New York residents prompted the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service to conduct a one-day orientation session for residents in the Metropolitan New York area, both in and out of the Veterans Administration. It was recognized that this exposure could hardly replace the longer courses at universities, but it was felt that even a one-day experience in prosthetics and orthotics would be of benefit to residents.

The session, held on April 28, 1965 in the New York offices of the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, was attended by more than 40 resi-

dents affiliated with more than a dozen institutions. With a lecture on biomechanical principles as an introduction, the agenda included highlights of upper- and lower-extremity prosthetics, bracing considerations, the shoe as an integral part of bracing, and a discussion of gait deviations. A lengthy question and answer period was provided.

The participants seemed to be enthusiastic about this one-day orientation program and urged that it be conducted, at a minimum, on an annual basis, and that consideration be given to extending the program to at least two days. The Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service will continue to make every effort to provide opportunities for its residents to attend the regular courses offered by New York University, University of California at Los Angeles, and Northwestern University within the limits of available openings and budgetary considerations. However, to provide some educational experience, limited though it may be, for those residents who cannot be accommodated at such courses, the orientation technique will be continued. Field stations are urged to consider similar orientation programs for residents in their local communities.

COLUMBUS PROSTHETICS CONFERENCE

On February 11-12, 1965, Prosthetic Representatives and Orthopedic Shop Supervisors from the Columbus Medical Area met at the Pick Fort Hayes Hotel, Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. Wilfred G. Holsberg, Assistant Chief, Plans and Policies Division, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, represented the service at the conference. He discussed VA Long Range Plans for Prosthetics Programs and presented current and future operations of Audiology and Speech Pathology Activities and the Blind Rehabilitation Program.

Mr. Howard Freiberger, Electronics Engineer, Research and Development Division, PSAS, N. Y., presented a most interesting and informative discussion on the current status of VA Research and Guidance Devices and Reading Machines for the Blind.

Mr. William McIlmurray, Chief, Prosthetics-Orthotics Service, VA Prosthetics Center in New York, brought the group up to date on New Developments in Prosthetics and Orthotics and had very active discussions on Plans and Problems in the Central Distribution of Hydraulic Limb Components, Temporary Limb Units, Elastic Hose, Surgical Supports, and Orthopedic Shoes.

Mr. Donald Smith, Chief, VA Prosthetic Distribution Center, Denver, Colorado, discussed the pilot programs for Central Distribution of Certain Medical Accessories and the Centralized Hearing Aid Repair Program.

The afternoon of the second day was devoted to general discussions of such administrative matters as workload trends, budgeting, reporting, con-

tracts, loan program, issue of major medical accessories, and the expanding requirement for furnishing major items to nonservice-connected veterans.

TRIP TO ORIENT BY DR. MURPHY

Dr. Eugene F. Murphy, Chief, Research and Development Division, PSAS, recently participated in the Pan-Pacific Conference on Rehabilitation and in a Prosthetics Seminar, both held in Tokyo under the sponsorship of the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled.

On his way back, Dr. Murphy spent some time with prosthetics personnel in the VA facilities in Manila and Honolulu. Visits were also made to research contractors in the United States. It is hoped that a fuller report of Dr. Murphy's experiences can be made in the next issue of the Bulletin.

NEW MANAGING EDITOR OF BPR

Miss Anna L. Syarse, who served as Managing Editor of the Bulletin of Prosthetics Research, and who helped immeasurably in the publication of the first two issues, recently left our employ.

We wish her well in her future undertakings. Miss Syarse's responsibilities have been assumed by Mrs. Rhoda Beiser.

HERBERT R. LISSNER

It is with great sorrow that we note the untimely death of Professor Herbert R. Lissner. An authority in engineering and biomechanics, Professor Lissner was active in the affairs of the Committee on Prosthetics Research and Development and served as chairman of the subcommittee on Evaluation. He had been chairman of the Department of Engineering Mechanics at Wayne State University. A short time before his death he received the Alumni Award for distinguished services from the University of Illinois. He was scheduled to be honored by the American Society of Testing and Materials. His dedicated interested and scholarly contributions will be missed.

ZAMOSKY IN NEW POSITION

Mr. Isidore Zamosky, whose article on *Shoe Modifications In Lower-Extremity Orthotics* was published in BPR 10-2 Fall 1964, recently left the VA Prosthetics Center to assume the position of Director of Orthotics at the New York State Rehabilitation Hospital in West Haverstraw, New York.

Mr. Zamosky had been engaged in VA prosthetics activities for more than 20 years. His lectures on shoe modifications and the role of the shoe

in bracing were always enthusiastically received. His colleagues in the Veterans Administration wish him well in his new and challenging situation.

PAUL ROCKETT RETIRES

After more than 25 years of service in the interest of disabled veterans, Paul Rockett of the VA Prosthetics Center in New York recently retired. The feelings of his associates are best expressed by the following letter from Dr. Robert E. Stewart:

“Dear Paul:

I wish I could be present to greet you in person this evening, but unfortunately the distance involved and the pressure of other business makes this impossible.

During your more than 25 years of Government Service you have made substantial contributions to the welfare of disabled veterans. Your outstanding skill as a Prosthetist has won well-deserved acclaim from many sources over the years, and as a direct result of your efforts hundreds of disabled veterans are able to enjoy full, rich lives despite the handicap of a major amputation.

While all of your service in the Prosthetics Program has been exemplary, we are most appreciative of your assistance during the period between the transfer of Joe Ufheil to Central Office and the establishment of the VA Prosthetics Center in New York. We all know that you enjoy working with patients and have no great love for administrative management — and for that reason your outstanding leadership of our largest VA Orthopedic Shop during this crucial period is all the more impressive.

We shall miss your quiet, unassuming, but highly productive work in the VA Prosthetics Center. Unfortunately for us — and for the world — there are all too few men with your superb technical skill and your keen insight into the problems of physical impairment. For that reason we hope you will find the opportunity to continue to use your unique abilities — perhaps on a less demanding part-time basis — in the unending struggle for rehabilitation of the physically handicapped.

My Central Office Staff joins me in wishing for you and your family the very best that life can offer in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

ROBERT E. STEWART, D.D.S.

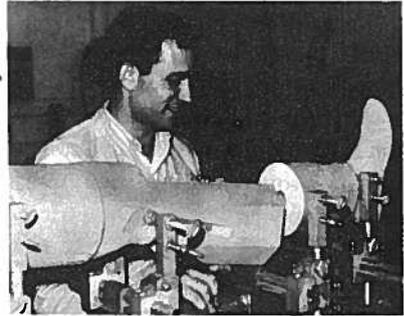
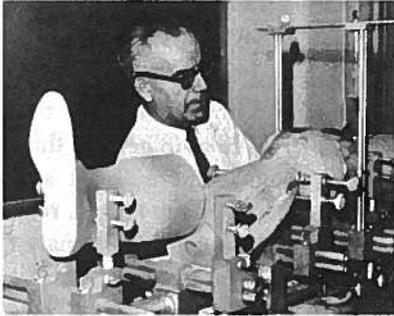
Director

Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service

Mr. and Mrs. Rockett are now making their home at: R.D. 2, Greencastle, Pa. 17223.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE CURRICULUM IN PROSTHETICS & ORTHOTICS

A festive dinner honoring the first two graduates of the baccalaureate program in Prosthetics and Orthotics was held the evening of June 2nd at the New York University Medical Center. Ivan Dillee and Hugh Panton, the graduates, as well as faculty members and fellow students in the curriculum were in attendance. Other guests represented the Committees on Prosthetics Research and Development, and Prosthetic-Orthotic Education, of the National Research Council-National Academy of Sciences, the American Board for Certification in Prosthetics and Orthotics, the Veterans Administration, the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, the American Orthotics and Prosthetics Association, the Metropolitan Orthopedic Appliance and Limb Manufacturers Association, and the International Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled. Dr. Sidney Fishman presented a brief review of the developments in the field since 1947 which touched upon the contributions of so many of those present.



Ivan Dillee (left) and Hugh Panton (right), first two recipients of baccalaureate degrees in Prosthetics and Orthotics at New York University.

Brief addresses were also made by Dean John Payne, Vice Dean of the University's School of Education, whose cooperation has helped make this program a reality; and Dr. Salvatore G. DiMichael, the Regional Representative of the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, whose office has provided financial and related support for the curriculum in Prosthetics and Orthotics.

Highlighting and completing the program was a brief talk by General F. S. Strong who shared the role as guest of honor. General Strong was the first Executive Director of the Committee on Prosthetics Research and Development, under whose guidance the evolution of the prosthetic and orthotic progression was initiated.