

COMMITTEE ON PROSTHETIC-ORTHOTIC EDUCATION

Division of Medical Sciences
National Research Council

CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

On July 1, 1967, I assumed the Chairmanship of the Committee on Prosthetic-Orthotic Education (CPOE) at the request of Dr. R. Keith Cannan, at that time Chairman of the Division of Medical Sciences of the National Research Council. I am happy to report that Dr. Roy M. Hoover, our former Chairman, who guided the activities of the Committee for the past three years, has consented to remain as an active member.

This year has brought about several other personnel changes insofar as CPOE and associates are concerned. In September Dr. Cannan, a strong supporter of CPOE activities, retired as Chairman of the Division of Medical Sciences. Dr. Charles L. Dunham, former Director of the Division of Biology and Medicine of the Atomic Energy Commission, has been named his successor. Dr. Cannan, however, is being retained as consultant to the President of the National Academy of Sciences and to the new Chairman of the Division and will continue to work with CPOE for a period of time.

As you all know, Dr. Harold W. Glattly, to whom we owe so much for his dynamic leadership in the formation and development of the CPOE program, died on October 26th. Dr. Glattly gave unstintingly of his services to the Committee for the past ten years and will be sorely missed. Mrs. Barbara R. Friz, who has worked with the Committee for over four years, has assumed the responsibilities of Executive Secretary of CPOE.

The composition of CPOE itself has been altered in keeping with the changing interests of the group. In view of the Committee's interest in encouraging a conservative treatment program for lower-extremity amputations, a general surgeon has been appointed as a member. He is Dr. Richard Warren, Chief of the General Surgery Section, Department of Medicine and Surgery of the Veterans Administration and also Clinical Professor of Surgery at Harvard University Medical School.

The appointment of a nurse educator, Miss Lena Plaisted, Professor of Rehabilitation Nursing at Boston University School of Nursing, reflects the Committee's continuing efforts to help identify and recognize the role of the nurse in the care and management of the amputee.

Dr. Frank W. Clippinger, Jr., of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Duke University Medical Center, also a recent appointee, will serve as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Prosthetic Clinical Studies.

Rotating off the Committee this fiscal year are Dr. C. Leslie Mitchell, who served as its able Chairman from 1960 to 1964, and Dr. William J. Erdman, II, who served on the Editorial Board for the journal *Artificial Limbs* and who was also Chairman of the Subcommittee on Prosthetics in Pennsylvania. Their many contributions to CPOE are sincerely appreciated. Dr. Charles Shields replaced Dr. Erdman on the Editorial Board.

I recently attended a meeting of the Committee on Prosthetics Research and Development (CPRD) in Washington, D.C. The staff of this Committee and that of CPOE have moved into new offices in the Joseph Henry Building, located at 2100

Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., which houses all the "overflow" offices of the National Academy of Sciences. The mailing address, however, remains the same—2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418. GPRD and CPOE are now located directly across the hall from each other in this new building. This proximity will facilitate communications and promote closer working relationships.

I am pleased to report that the Social and Rehabilitation Service (formerly the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration) and the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service of the Veterans Administration have renewed their contracts so that we can continue our activities as planned. As a result of action taken at the annual meeting, the functions of CPOE will now be carried out through five subcommittees, as follows:

1. Subcommittee on Prosthetic Clinical Studies

One of the studies for which this subcommittee is responsible, the facility record form study, should be completed within the next few months. Essentially all the data from the records have been coded, punched on cards, taped, and are ready for retrieval and analysis. Dr. Clippinger's group will meet in the near future to monitor analysis of the findings.

Analysis of the long-range follow-up study is to be discussed by the amputee clinic chiefs at a meeting to be held concurrently with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons in January 1968.

A third study in which we have an interest is being conducted by Dr. Richard Warren and the surgeons in a number of VA hospitals. It should, as a prospective study, provide information on current amputation policies of those surgeons throughout the country who are doing most amputations. We particularly hope that these studies will help establish the criteria for amputation at the various levels in treatment of gangrene and that we can learn more about causes of failure, complications and specific means of ensuring success.

2. Subcommittee on Orthotics

The questionnaires pertaining to the documentation of orthotic practices in the treatment of low back pain have been distributed to all members of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Data retrieval and analysis will be accomplished at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital, under the direction of the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Orthotics, Dr. Jacquelin Perry.

3. Subcommittee on Paramedical Education

Chairman Ruth Robinson called a meeting of this subcommittee in Chicago on November 6, 1967. The Northwestern University staff presented an outline of a film directed toward the nurse's role in the care and management of the amputee. The content and its presentation were discussed at some length. It is anticipated that production of this film will be completed within a year. From the comments of this subcommittee, it appears that a need continues for prosthetic and orthotic educational materials, particularly for the individual who is not associated with a large hospital or teaching center.

The results of the work of this subcommittee can be seen in the Autumn 1966 issue of *Artificial Limbs*. The published bibliographies represent about half the total and the remaining portions will appear in future issues of this journal.

4. Subcommittee on Prosthetic-Orthotic Educational Materials

This subcommittee is to meet in Washington, D.C., on December 11th, at which time several new prosthetic and orthotic films will be reviewed. This newly-formed subcommittee is responsible for identifying the need for prosthetic and orthotic educational material, for stimulating development of needed materials and for reviewing available educational materials, all of which will be considered at the

December meeting. Mrs. Geneva Johnson of Western Reserve University is the chairman and Dr. Augusto Sarmiento of the University of Miami Medical School will serve as physician consultant.

5. *Subcommittee on Special Educational Projects in Prosthetics and Orthotics*

Dr. J. Warren Perry, the chairman, called the first meeting of this subcommittee on July 21st in St. Louis. The members, representing the various agencies and organizations concerned with prosthetics and orthotics, considered a number of projects that would be appropriate functions of this subcommittee. It appeared to the members that basic and preliminary to all future activities is a manpower survey of prosthetists and orthotists which would provide a profile of the current manpower situation and make possible a prediction of future needs. A working group met in Washington, D.C., on September 7th and considered the content of the survey form and drew up a rough draft which will be refined in format and wording at another meeting, which is scheduled for November 20th. Mr. William Bernstock of the VA, Mr. Herbert Warburton of AOPA and Mrs. Friz are working on the form.

Miscellany

At the AOPA National Assembly in Miami, orthotists held a separate meeting for the purpose of organizing a Conference of Orthotists, with purposes and functions similar to those of the Conference of Prosthetists. The interest and enthusiasm for such an organization was evidenced by the very large number of orthotists present. CPOE has worked closely with the Conference of Prosthetists and hopes to extend its services to both groups as needed. The Executive Secretary of CPOE attended both meetings and reported on the purpose and function of the Subcommittee on Special Educational Projects in Prosthetics and Orthotics.

Sets of 100 slides on prosthetics were distributed to the Directors of Schools of Physical Therapy at their annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in October and to the Directors of Schools of Occupational Therapy at their annual meeting in Boston that same month. Notices have been sent to the *AAOS Bulletin* and the *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* announcing the availability of these slides to amputee clinic chiefs who conduct residency training programs. Announcements have also been sent to 10 journals concerning the availability of reprints of the annotated bibliographies and the supplement of the "Review of Visual Aids in Prosthetics and Orthotics."

With the reorganization of CPOE, your Chairman sees the need for a different approach to initiating and developing new programs. We will need more frequent meetings of a Steering Committee and the active participation of all members in meeting the educational purposes of the Committee.

At the CPRD meeting, there was general discussion of the original Conference on the Geriatric Amputee. The monograph published after this meeting was enthusiastically received and, in many areas, has been considered an authoritative source. It was felt that, in view of changing concepts and increasing knowledge, there is need for a second Conference on the Geriatric Amputee. After some discussion, it was agreed by all that such educational activities are a function of CPOE and we have a mandate to promote such a conference. At this time, it would be helpful to your Chairman to have suggestions as to the time, place, content, and participants in a Conference on the Geriatric Amputee.

The next annual meeting of the Committee on Prosthetic-Orthotic Education is scheduled for April 18, 1968 at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.

HERBERT E. PEDERSEN, M.D.,
Chairman.

NOVEMBER 14, 1967.