

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PROSTHETIC-ORTHOTIC EDUCATION

October 1, 1968

INTRODUCTION

Although the Committee on Prosthetic-Orthotic Education (CPOE) has functioned during the past year with a new Chairman, three new members, and a new Executive Secretary, an attempt has been made to maintain continuity of the overall program by reviewing past goals and activities and by establishing close working relationships with all members. Following are the areas in which the Committee has been most active:

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

The Committee continued its efforts to inform medical and allied health professions of the availability of newly developed prosthetic and orthotic educational materials and training aids. Informative announcements and copies of reprints were sent to key personnel in schools of medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, social work, nursing, prosthetics and orthotics, and to amputee clinic chiefs and others by request. Notice of availability of materials was also published in 12 professional journals.

Eight new training films were reviewed by members of the Subcommittee on Prosthetic-Orthotic Educational Material, and summaries of these were published in *Artificial Limbs*. Articles on prosthetics published in professional journals in 1966-67 were abstracted and submitted for publication. The entire annotated prosthetics bibliography, 1956-67, is being prepared for publication in one volume, possibly as a supplemental issue of *Artificial Limbs*. An annotated bibliography, 1960-67, is near completion.

Four hundred sets of slides and captions on modern prosthetics; 5,000 copies of the reprint, "Limb Prosthetics—1967," by A. B. Wilson; and 2,500 copies of the manual, "Principles of Lower Extremity Bracing," by J. Perry, *et al.*, were distributed to institutions that conduct appropriate training programs.

SURVEYS AND STUDIES

1. One of the obstacles in providing good prosthetics and orthotics services for patients in this country at this time appears to be a severe shortage of prosthetists and orthotists. At the request of the Subcommittee

on Special Educational Projects in Prosthetics and Orthotics, a manpower survey is being conducted to determine the dimension of this problem. Analysis of the data obtained will provide information needed in planning and developing educational and training programs in these specialties. Survey forms, developed after completion of a pilot survey, were distributed to 601 facilities and institutions, and returns are coming in at this time. A preliminary report of the study was presented at the assembly of the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association in Minneapolis, September 30, 1968.

2. A preliminary report of the Facility Case Record Study was also presented at the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association assembly. Information for this study was provided by prosthetists from 44 facilities who submitted to the CPOE office copies of facility case records on 8,322 amputees, with 8,698 amputations. Information on the record forms was edited in the CPOE office, coded, and transcribed to data processing magnetic form where it is stored and ready for computer analysis.

On February 26, 1968, an *ad hoc* committee met with the CPOE staff and a consultant for data processing for the purpose of framing pertinent questions which could be answered by the computer technique. The committee consisted of Dr. Frank Clippinger, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Clinical Prosthetics Studies, Dr. Robert Keagy, Mr. Bert Titus, Mr. Basil Peters, and Dr. Ed Peizer. An analysis of the data will be done and presented in a final report.

3. Collection of data for the followup prosthetics clinical study continues.

4. Data on the first phase of a survey of 5,000 orthopedic surgeons on the use of external support in the treatment of low back pain have been collected and analyzed and a report is now being prepared. The second part of the study, for which survey forms have been distributed, deals with what the surgeon expects from the use of the support he prescribes. These studies are part of an on-going project of the Subcommittee on Orthotics in which current orthotics practices are being documented and explored.

5. Graduates of courses in immediate postsurgical prosthetics have been surveyed for the purpose of determining the extent to which the procedure is being used and the success achieved by this group of physicians. A report of the survey was presented at the meeting of the University Council on Orthotic-Prosthetic Education in Minneapolis on September 28, 1968.

THE GERIATRIC AMPUTEE

Members of the Committee have agreed that an educational program directed toward the management of the geriatric amputee should be a major project of CPOE and that plans for the Conference on the Geriatric Amputee should proceed as expeditiously as possible. Dr. Herbert Pedersen,

Chairman of the Committee on Prosthetic-Orthotic Education, called a meeting of the Conference Planning Committee on July 10, 1968. Conference participants and subjects for discussion were selected. The Conference will be held within the next few months.

EDUCATIONAL NEEDS FOR NURSES

Plans are underway to give better support to the educational needs of nurses in the fields of prosthetics and orthotics. To this end, the Committee is funding production of a film directed toward the role of the nurse in care and management of the amputee. A three-day nurse educators' seminar in prosthetics and orthotics is scheduled for the coming year.