

## NOTES AND NEWS

### COURSE ON THE SPINAL CORD INJURED PATIENT

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons sponsored a post-graduate course on the spinal cord injured patient December 8-10, 1972, at the Americana Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida.

Orthopedic surgeons, neurosurgeons, physiatrists, urologists, surgeons, and other interested physicians, physical and occupational therapists, nurses, and other health related specialists attended. Director of the course for the Academy's Committee on Rehabilitation was Dr. Augusto Sarmiento, Professor and Chairman, Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, University of Miami School of Medicine.

The course was held in cooperation with the University of Miami School of Medicine and presented a comprehensive program including research, clinical, and rehabilitative aspects of the spinal cord injured patient.

The faculty of 27 physicians and six allied health professionals included seven members of the University of Miami School of Medicine faculty.

### DR. MURPHY LECTURES IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Dr. Eugene F. Murphy, Chief, Research and Development Division, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, gave two lectures at the International Symposium on Prosthetics and Orthotics organized by the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, August 21-24, 1972, and a third talk at the Twelfth World Congress of the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled, August 27-September 1, 1972. Both meetings were held in Sydney, Australia.

Dr. Murphy's first talk, on normal locomotion (Fig. 1) was followed by Mrs. Joan Edelstein of New York University, who spoke on pathological locomotion. Dr. Murphy then reviewed currently available orthotic devices and components. Several hundred people enrolled for this Symposium. Although there was substantial international representation among both lecturers and students, many of the latter were student therapists from local schools. The Symposium was arranged by the ISPO Education Committee, chaired by Dr. Sidney Fishman. Dr. R. W. Klein was chairman of the Australian organizing Committee.

Dr. Murphy's third lecture, at an ISRD special-interest session arranged by ISPO, covered the problems caused by the absence of pres-



FIGURE 1.—(Left to right) David Tyler, Chairman of the first session on Locomotion, Dr. Knud Jansen, Chairman of the session on Prosthetics and Orthotics and President of ISPO, and Dr. Eugene F. Murphy, Chief, R&D Div., PSAS.

sure, creating window edema; excessive and prolonged pressure, creating ischemia and ulceration; and unduly abrupt transition of pressure, creating shearing stress and presumably related to dermatological difficulties. He then discussed the interaction between the time limits during which a muscle can hold various forces, the risk of pressure necrosis (e.g., from a corrective orthosis), and the viscoelastic properties of muscles and tendons. Dr. Paul Brand of the United States Public Health Service Hospital at Carville, Louisiana, then spoke on the effects of pressure in tissues lacking sensation as the result of leprosy or diabetes. Approximately 80 people attended the session on Prosthetics and Orthotics of the Rehabilitation Congress. On several occasions, Dr. Knud Jansen, President of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) and chairman of both the Symposium and the ISRD special-interest session, gave short introductory lectures.

During the trip, Dr. Murphy also visited the VA facilities and Tripler Army Hospital in Honolulu, Vigilant Alarms and University of Canterbury in Christchurch, N.Z., Royal Guide Dogs for the Blind in Melbourne, Australia, and the School of Metallurgy, University of New South Wales, Sydney.

## **COURSE ON "MODERN APPROACH TO PROSTHETICS AND ORTHOTICS"**

A postgraduate course on "The Modern Approach to Prosthetics and Orthotics" was sponsored by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, November 6-8, 1972, in Chicago, Illinois.

The 3-day course of lectures and panel discussions was held at the Sheraton-Chicago Hotel and was offered by the Academy's Committee on Prosthetics and Orthotics in cooperation with Northwestern University's Prosthetic and Orthotic Education Department, Chicago.

Course Chairman was Dr. Robert G. Thompson, Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Northwestern University Medical School, and Chairman, AAOS Committee on Prosthetics and Orthotics.

The course was offered to orthopedic surgeons and other physicians concerned with rehabilitation of the amputee and patients in need of orthotic appliances. It was also offered to nurses, orthotists, prosthetists, and physical and occupational therapists.

Discussed were the selection of the proper level of amputation, preprosthetic treatment, and prosthesis prescription. Requirements for orthoses were approached from the biomechanical standpoint. Among topics were spinal orthoses, electric and self-propelled wheelchairs, the Milwaukee brace, crutches, canes, and walkers.

The faculty of 29 included nine members of the Northwestern University staff and guest lecturers from eight states.

## **GARDNER PRESENTED VA-QUALIFIED PROSTHETIST CERTIFICATE NO. 1**

Henry F. Gardner, Technical Assistant to the Director, VA Prosthetics Center, New York City, was presented with VA-Qualified Prosthetists Certificate No. 1 at an award ceremony on July 13, 1972. The award was presented by Dr. Robert E. Stewart, Director, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service (Fig. 2).

Mr. Gardner, a certified prosthetist and orthotist has been with the VA since 1947. He started as a bench technician and has risen to his present position as senior prosthetist and technical assistant to the Director. He is involved in teaching, lecturing, and prosthetics research, and he is personally responsible for many innovations and inventions which bear his name. These items are used in the measurement and alignment of prostheses. Mr. Gardner is presently the Vice President of the newly organized professional society, The American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists.



FIGURE 2.—Dr. Robert E. Stewart, Director, PSAS, left, presenting VA-Qualified Prosthetist Certificate to Henry F. Gardner as Anthony Staros, Director, VAPC, N.Y.C., stands by.

### AAOS-SPONSORED COURSE ON RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

A 3-day postgraduate course of lectures and panel discussions on reconstructive surgery in rheumatoid arthritis is offered by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons' Committee on Rheumatoid Arthritis and Allied Diseases. The course will be held at the Ramada Inn, Tucson, Arizona, April 11-13, 1973. Course Chairman is Dr. John R. Schwartzmann, Chief of Staff, Tucson Medical Center, and orthopedic consultant, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

The course for orthopedic surgeons, rheumatologists, and other interested physicians will be devoted to techniques of surgical treatment of arthritis as well as treatment of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.

Specific details of surgical techniques, indications and contraindications for surgery, and preoperative and postoperative management will be discussed. Covered will be total hip replacement as well as use of prostheses in the knee, hand, and wrist.

The 23 member faculty includes lecturers from 10 states.

For information contact John R. Schwartzmann, M.D., 5402 East Grand Road, Tucson, Arizona 85712.

### **SENATOR RANDOLPH AND NOEL B. PRICE AWARDED 1972 MIGEL MEDAL**

The Migel Medal, presented annually for outstanding service in work for the blind, was presented this year to Senator Jennings Randolph (D.-W.Va.) and Noel B. Price, vice president and general manager of National Industries for the Blind. They received their awards October 26 at the American Foundation for the Blind's headquarters in New York.

The medal, established in 1937 by the late M. C. Migel, first president of the Foundation, is designed to recognize professionally employed practitioners in education, rehabilitation, and social welfare concerned with blind persons and lay persons who have voluntarily dedicated themselves to advancing services for blind persons. Mr. Price is receiving the professional award and Senator Randolph the layman award.

Mr. Price is an industrial engineer and marketing expert who has fused those skills with a philosophy of understanding and respect for the individual to obtain more jobs for blind people. He has worked both locally and nationally to train and employ thousands upon thousands of blind persons.

Long a believer in laws expanding jobs for blind people, Senator Randolph has helped to enact legislation such as the Randolph-Sheppard Act of 1936 which was instrumental in placing thousands of blind people in vending stand operations in federal buildings. He has also supported other laws like the Wagner-O'Day Act of 1938 which benefited blind persons working in non-profit workshops. In 1972, Senator Randolph helped expand the law to include all severely handicapped individuals. He is chairman of the subcommittee on the handicapped and has worked closely with over a dozen agencies which help disabled, blind, and aged persons.

### **POPULATION STUDY REVEALS MANY VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS**

As the result of a population study compiled by the American Foundation for the Blind, and based upon every significant statistical study of the visually impaired population in the United States made in the last 15 years, there are an estimated 1.7 million visually impaired persons—largely old, mostly unaware of their eligibility for help, and often not considering themselves blind.

The visually impaired population study was made by Louis H. Goldish, director of AFB's new Sensory Aids Analysis and Development

Program. The object of the program is to get the many newly developed, sophisticated, sensory devices for the blind—now lying dormant in laboratories—into the hands of blind people.

To meet this goal, Mr. Goldish, a mechanical engineer and marketing consultant with a background in the field of blindness, first had to find out the number of potential users of sensory aids and services. The results are in his initial survey, "The Severely Visually Impaired Population as a Market for Sensory Aids and Services," in the *New Outlook for the Blind*, the leading professional journal in the field of blindness.

The report shows that the visually impaired population is, unlike the general U.S. population, made up of older individuals. Approximately 65 percent—over one million persons—are 65 years or older.

Also, despite the general connotation of "blindness" as a total absence of vision, Mr. Goldish reports that almost 60 percent of the severely impaired have useful vision, however limited.

He also found that many severely visually impaired persons who have some "sight" consider themselves ineligible for the aids and services offered by agencies or they avoid the blindness system because they do not consider themselves blind.

The Foundation report states that the need for special aids or services and the suitability of those aids or services to a visually impaired person depend, to a great extent, upon his visual capability, the extent of his impairment, the level of his activity, his status, general and economic, and his contact with service agencies.

As the sensory aids and analysis program continues, the Foundation will issue more reports with practical information about specific areas of technological research and available items.