

WELCOMING ADDRESS

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It is a great pleasure for me to be invited to welcome you not only to Chicago but also to this new building which houses the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. The building is an affiliated hospital, an integral part of the Northwestern University-McGaw Medical Center. Within this building we have expanded our own programs, under the supervision of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, which have been struggling in less-than-adequate quarters in the old Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago building on Ohio Street. Most of you will want to go through this building with members of our staff.

The 17th floor of this building is entirely Northwestern University Prosthetic-Orthotic Education where we have now three major laboratories with programs for prosthetics and orthotics, classrooms, and plans for the future for the bachelor's courses. We now, for the first time, have totally adequate facilities for our current and future education programs. On the 14th floor, also under our supervision, is our research section. In this area two basic research sections, the Prosthetic Research Laboratory and the Rehabilitation Engineering Program, are combined. You will be most interested in seeing some of the work that Dr. Dudley Childress has been carrying on. Also, the Northwestern University Physical Therapy School occupies the fourth floor of this building. The rest of the building has research in rehabilitation medicine, four floors for patient care, the 12th floor for physical therapy and occupational therapy, the second floor for cafeterias, etc.

My own involvement in your programs, as many of you know, goes back to the beginning, in World War II when I was the first and really only Chief of the McGuire Amputation Center in Richmond, Virginia. Following this, after discharge from the Service, I thought I would get back into private practice, and not be too involved in amputations. Then my friend Paul Magnuson came along as Chief Medical Director of the VA and immediately put hooks on me to help organize the Regional Office Clinics, particularly the one here in Chicago. From that moment



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on, I have continued to be involved with the VA programs as well as Social and Rehabilitation Service and other HEW programs in prosthetics and orthotics. Paul Magnuson, as you know, had tremendous influence on changing the pattern of VA medical care and research, specifically in orthopedic and prosthetic-orthotic fields. Gus Thorndike worked in these programs with us in those days. He became involved in the Suction Socket Program as soon as he joined the VA in 1948, and we have been associated in various similar programs ever since.

Paul Magnuson was a professor of bone and joint surgery here at Northwestern before leaving to take the VA job, and he was personally responsible for the existence of the building we are sitting in right now. His influence on certain fields such as rehabilitation, particularly orthopedically oriented rehabilitation, has been tremendous. This 16th floor auditorium was named after him, and his portrait is in the lounge outside; also, a bas-relief plaque honoring him is hanging in the main floor lobby. We wanted to name the entire hospital after Magnuson, but he had expressly stated that he did not want that to happen, so it has not been done as yet. This really could and probably should be the Magnuson Rehabilitation Institute. He refused to let us dedicate it to him while he was alive, and his wife has held to this. She has since died and left us \$1,000,000. His son still is very active with us on the Board.

All through the years, I have grown up working with many of the people that are in this room. In the very beginning were Howard Eberhart, Verne Inman, Gene Murphy, Chuck Radcliffe, and many others. Later, of course, Tony Staros and other people worked with us, as well as their associates, in these programs. As a natural progression and development, the VA Prosthetics Center was organized and has been working very effectively.

I worked with General Strong, who developed the Prosthetics Research Board and helped to coordinate originally many, many other activities. Then the coordination of the program passed to the Committee on Prosthetics Research and Development.

Also, in addition to these programs, I have been working with the VA and others in the spinal-cord-injury programs here in our own laboratory. The Prosthetic Research Laboratory is VA-sponsored and -financed. Our Rehabilitation Engineering Center is working in coordination with it, working very deeply in device development and in surgical implants. The panorama of our interest has greatly increased in the past 10 years.

This is a tremendous program in which you are participating. Each of you has your own interests and your own abilities that should be contributed to this meeting over the next few days.

One of the greatest supporters of all programs, of course, for many years has been Dr. Robert E. Stewart. He has been tremendous in his efforts in developing appropriate funding for many of our programs. Unfortunately, he has just reached the age where he was forced to become a consultant rather than continue full time. But most fortunate for us is the fact that we now have in the VA Central Office, in a little different type of setup, Dr. Thomas Radley, an orthopedic surgeon, who will carry on as chairman of this meeting. He is Deputy Director for Prosthetics in the Surgical Service and Acting Director, Prosthetics Research Service. Tom also is active in our Academy affairs. He works

with me on the Committee on Rehabilitation of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, and he is active as a member of the Committee on Government Legislation and Veterans Affairs of the Academy. He has been an Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of Cincinnati, consultant to the VA and Chief of the Orthopedic Appliance Clinic Team there, and he is attending surgeon at the Washington, D.C., Veterans Administration Hospital. I can personally state that he has developed and maintained a real interest in our efforts and our programs, and we look forward to many years of pleasant association with Tom and the Central Office of the Veterans Administration. At this time I will turn the meeting over to Dr. Radley.