

## NOTES AND NEWS

### NEW CENTERS FOR SCI PATIENTS

The sixteenth Veterans Administration Hospital for specialized care of persons with spinal cord injuries was opened recently in Palo Alto, California, and another center is under construction in St. Louis. Benefits for veterans and civilian patients are expected through the continuing progress made by the VA in the rehabilitation programs for spinal-cord-injured patients.

Other Va Spinal Cord Injury Centers are located as follows:

VAH Bronx, New York	VAH Memphis, Tennessee
VAH Castle Point, New York	VAH Miami, Florida
VAH Cleveland, Ohio	VAH Richmond, Virginia
VAH East Orange, New Jersey	VAC San Juan, Puerto Rico
VAH Hampton, Virginia	VAH Tampa, Florida
VAH Hines, Illinois	VAH West Roxbury, Massachusetts
VAH Houston, Texas	VAC Wood, Wisconsin
VAH Long Beach, California	

### TIRR DEVICE WINS AWARD

The Texas Institute of Rehabilitation and Research design of a device to measure the range of motion of human joints has won recognition as one of 1974's most important new technical advances.

The stereometric sensor, developed by the Director of Biostereometrics Laboratory, Dr. R.E. Herron, and systems designer, J.R. Cuzzi, was selected by *Industrial Research* magazine as one of the top 100 most significant technical developments of the year.

The sensor is an automatic instrument which measures and records three-dimensional movement of the major joints of the body. It was judged on the basis of uniqueness, importance, and usefulness by a panel of internationally known scientists and engineers.

The sensor will be used to evaluate the effects of physical therapy by measuring a patient's range of joint motion as treatment progresses. Another major application will be in studies of handicapped employees to determine design for more efficient work stations.

Also, the sensor is expected to be a valuable tool in solving a number of human engineering problems, including the design of artificial limbs, consumer product safety design, orthopedic studies on structural deformities, and pediatric studies on human growth changes.

## THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGING AND BLINDNESS

The First National Conference on Aging and Blindness was held April 24-26, 1975, at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans, Louisiana. The theme of the conference was "Meeting the Challenges of Elderly Persons with Sight Difficulties—Action '76." The conference was sponsored jointly by the American Foundation for the Blind, the Administration of Aging/Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (DHEW), and the Office for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Rehabilitation Services Administration/DHEW.

Arthur S. Flemming, U.S. Commissioner on Aging, Office of Human Development/DHEW, delivered the keynote address at the opening session on April 24. In addition to general sessions, on all 3 days workshops, films, and a program information exchange were held.

Members of the Foundation's Advisory Committee on Aging, under the chairmanship of Edna Bonn Russell, were asked to make recommendations, for the future, later to the Foundation's board of directors and new executive director, Loyal E. Apple, based on the purpose and outcome of the conference.

Among the cooperating agencies were: American Association of Workers for the Blind, American Council of the Blind, National Association of State Units on Aging, National Council on the Aging, Inc., National Council of State Agencies for the Blind, National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, National Voluntary Organizations for Independent Living for the Elderly, Western Michigan University—Department of Blind Rehabilitation.

Joseph Kohn, executive director of the New Jersey State Commission for the Blind, served as chairman of the conference planning committee.

The conference was open to all state personnel in the fields of aging and blindness, as well as other interested personnel from voluntary organizations.

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PROSTHETICS AND ORTHOTICS

ISPO will hold its II World Congress at the Americana Hotel in New York City, New York, May 27-June 2, 1977.

The American Orthotics and Prosthetics Association (AOPA) and the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP) will be cooperating with ISPO on this program.

Additional details regarding submission of scientific papers and exhibits, registration, etc., will be announced later in 1975.

## SPECIAL PHONE SERVICES BOOKLET

A booklet, *Services for Special Needs*, published by the Bell Telephone system, describes special services to help those with hearing, sight,

speech, or motion impairments. Included in the booklet are facts on a bone conduction receiver and voice amplifiers for hearing impairment, an electronic larynx for speech loss, and other adaptations for other disabilities.

### HECTOR W. KAY, 1909-1975

On the evening of Monday, March 31, 1975, Hector W. Kay died at home in his sleep. He was a loved and respected figure in prosthetic and orthotics, both nationally and internationally, and his death is a painful personal and professional loss to countless friends and coworkers throughout the world.

He was born and grew up in Australia, and overcame trying circumstances to come to Springfield College in Massachusetts on a YMCA scholarship. An outstanding student in physical education, he graduated in 1938. Between 1938 and 1946 he served as Director of Physical Education at YMCA units in Montreal, Canada, and Sydney, Australia. He returned to Springfield College in 1946 as an instructor and for graduate work. From 1949 to 1952 Hector was an Assistant Professor of Education at the State University of New York at Cortland.

In 1952 he joined the staff of the New York University Prosthetic Devices Study when that group acted as the evaluation agency for the Artificial Limb Program. He soon assumed a major role in the study and was a principal figure in the organization and conduct of the massive Upper-Extremity Prosthetics Field Study that was carried out in conjunction with the first formal prosthetics courses in the United States (conducted by the University of California at Los Angeles in 1953 and 1954).

During the same period an informal network of child amputee clinics was initiated under the Advisory Committee on Artificial Limbs of the National Academy of Sciences (predecessor of the Committee on Prosthetics Research and Development). Because of its evaluation function and role in the Upper-Extremity Field Study, NYU was active in helping to establish this network of clinics throughout the United States and Canada and in providing an environment that encouraged cooperation between the various clinics and the government-sponsored research, development, evaluation, and education programs. Hector was actively involved with the growth of the group of participating clinics and was the editor of the *Inter-Clinic Information Bulletin (ICIB)*, from its initiation in 1961 until the time of his death.

When Hector came to the National Academy of Sciences as Assistant Executive Director of CPRD in 1965 he continued responsibility for the *ICIB* and for the conduct of the Child Amputee Program. His work involved assisting new clinics to join the program and aiding existing clinics, and also organizing the annual meeting of the Chiefs of Child Amputee Clinics and publishing its proceedings. Another major co-

tribution was his emphasis on sports participation for children with disabilities. He traveled widely on behalf of CPRD and spent considerable time advising on matters involving rehabilitation facilities in countries such as Poland and Yugoslavia. He served on the Research Committee of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics as well.

In addition he became involved with systems for the classification of congenital limb deficiencies, a subject of great debate among various groups both in North America and Western Europe. As a result of his efforts the differences of many years' standing were resolved recently through the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO). His interest in this classification problem led him into the prosthetics and orthotics nomenclature program supported by CPRD-CPOE, the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association, and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Hector officially retired on his 65th birthday last November, but, in a manner typical of his outlook on life, he continued to be actively involved at CPRD at least 4 days a week, and at the time of his death was serving as its Acting Executive Director.

He is survived by his wife, Katherine, by his two sons Alan and Kevin, and by his brother Victor, of Melbourne, Australia.

A scholarship fund in Hector's memory is being established at Springfield College, Massachusetts. Those who wish to contribute may send checks payable to Springfield College, with a covering note specifying that it is for the Hector W. Kay Scholarship Fund. The college is in Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A. 01109.

### **JOHANNES W. PRAST, 1917-1975**

It is with regret that the staff of the Research Center for Prosthetics announces the death of Johannes W. Prast, Research Director and President of Prast Research Associates, Inc., now under contract with the VA. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Johannes received his education from Gauss Engineering School of the City of Berlin, Berlin Technical University, and Management Training, Bell Aircraft Corporation.

He drew from a rich background of success in guiding many aerospace and medical engineering research and development programs. He became particularly sensitive to the problems of paraplegics while his son Martin, suffering injury and subsequent paraplegia, was in military hospitals in Japan and the U.S., and at VA Hospital, Castle Point. At that time he reordered his priorities to devote most of his time and efforts toward better rehabilitation of the spinal-cord-injured patient. He conducted background studies and state-of-the-art surveys regarding short-term prospects for significant improvements in the rehabilitation of paraplegics.



FIGURE 1.—Hector W. Kay, 1909-1975.



FIGURE 2.—Johannes W. Prast 1917-1975.

Under his management and VA support, he conducted the design and development of the PRA Adult Crutch-less Standing Orthosis and Pivot Walker and developed a first-class research team of PRA staff consultants, and VA experts. This work will be carried on by his son Martin.

Johannes will be remembered for his perseverance, unrelenting determination, and sense of humor.

#### ERRATA

The following corrections should be noted in BPR 10-22 Fall 1974:

On page 49 of Ronald Lipskin's article "Trends in Nonlicensed Mobil-ity Aids," the caption which was left out under the photograph should read: Figure 9—Chair-E-Yacht.

On page 236 in the final paragraph of Daniel Graupe's article "Control of Upper-Limb Prostheses in Several Degrees of Freedom," refer-ences to Table 4 should read Table 3.

In the article by Pierre Rabischong et al., "Electrical Stimulation o Limbs. Part II—Open Loop Control of Muscular Contraction," on pag 279 in the last sentence of the first paragraph, "maximum" should rea "minimum."

On page 285 of the same article, Equation [4] should read:  $I d^2\theta/dt^2 = M$ . On this same page in Figure 21, lower right corner, an equal sig-should be inserted to make the equation read:  $D_2 = G_2(\theta)$ .

On page 73, paragraph two, "Motherhood Apple-Pie" should rea "Motherhood and Apple-Pie."