

## **NOTES AND NEWS**

### **A RESOLUTION FOR A BARRIER-FREE ENVIRONMENT**

Submitted to the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate by more than 150 organizations, a resolution reaffirming the right of disabled citizens to develop their potentialities through the unobstructed use of man-made environment and the integration of the handicapped into the community.

The resolution calls for a national policy toward a barrier-free environment for disabled citizens.

### **PROSTHETICS AND ORTHOTICS RESEARCH REFERENCE CATALOGUE NOW AVAILABLE**

Volume Two of this new edition contains over 560 references compiled during 1973 and 1974.

Previously produced in Winnipeg, Canada, it is now published under the sponsorship of the Committee on Prosthetics Research and Development (CPRD), National Academy of Sciences — National Research Council.

Endorsed by the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO), the Catalogue provides access to literature in the specialized fields of prosthetics, orthotics, and assistive devices for the physically handicapped.

The subject listing has been expanded permitting retrieval of every reference by several very specific and detailed subject categories.

### **DOUGLAS C. MAC FARLAND, Ph. D., AND J. KENNETH COZIER SELECTED AS 1975 MIGEL MEDAL WINNERS**

The Migel Medal, presented annually for outstanding service in work for the blind is being presented to Douglas C. MacFarland, Ph. D., director of the Office for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and J. Kenneth Cozier, a businessman from Cleveland. They will receive their awards at the American Foundation for the Blind; headquarters in New York on October 23, 1975. Dr. MacFarland

is receiving the professional award and Mr. Cozier the layman award.

### LATIN AMERICAN REHABILITATION CONFERENCES

Mr. Anthony Staros, Director, VA Prosthetics Center, was invited to attend the 6th Congreso Medico Latinoamericano de Rehabilitacion which was also the 1<sup>er</sup> Congreso Venezolano de Medicina Fisica Y Rehabilitacion. This event took place in Caracas, Venezuela between the 27th of July and the 1st of August 1975. Mr. Staros and Mr. Erik Jensen, Consultant to the Pan American Health Organization, gave an instructional course in prosthetics and orthotics which consisted of 8 hours of lectures spread over 4 days. Approximately 50 persons attended each day.

### CHIEF OF BLIND REHABILITATION AT VACO RETIRES

Russell C. Williams retired June 30, 1975, after a distinguished career of more than 30 years in federal service.

A native of Auburn, Indiana, Williams completed Central Normal College in Danville, Indiana, in 1941. He taught school in Dillsboro, Indiana, before entering military service in 1942. While serving with the 83rd Infantry Division in France in 1944, he was blinded by an artillery shell explosion.

In the fall of 1945, he became a counselor at the Army's Valley Forge General Hospital following his own rehabilitation. In May 1948, he became chief of the Central Blind Rehabilitation Center, VA Hospital, Hines, Illinois. In 1959, he was appointed chief of Blind Rehabilitation at VACO and became the second person ever to hold that position.

Under his leadership, VA rehabilitation programs for blinded veterans have made great strides, increasing in size, scope, and effectiveness. From the nine-bed unit at the Hines Center in 1958, the VA's rehabilitation programs have expanded to include two additional centers at the Palo Alto, California, and West Haven, Connecticut, hospitals and five specialized psychiatric rehabilitation clinics for the blind. In addition, 72 VA hospitals now have Visual Impairment Services Teams that work with blinded veterans after they have returned to their home areas.

Known among his colleagues as "Mr. Blind Rehabilitation," he has been frequently sought out as a consultant and has made prolific contributions in this capacity to many social-service and educational institutions. Blind people throughout the world are bene-

fitting from his wisdom, integrity, decisiveness, and willingness to attack difficult problems.

In 1953, Williams received the Achievement Award of the Blinded Veterans Association and in 1956, AMVETS presented him with the National Rehabilitation Award. In April 1974, he was singled out as one of 10 outstanding handicapped federal employees of the year. Just prior to retirement he was honored with the Exceptional Service Award presented by the administrator of Veterans Affairs.

#### WILEY APPOINTED CHIEF OF CENTER FOR BLIND

Mr. J. Kenneth Wiley, who has been with the Veterans Administration since 1946, has been appointed Chief of the Western Blind Rehabilitation Center at the VA Hospital, Palo Alto, California.

Mr. Wiley succeeds Loyal E. Apple, who became Executive Director of the American Foundation for the Blind in January 1975.

Ken Wiley has served as Field Representative for the VA since October 1967. In his earlier VA career, he served as a braille instructor and Chief of a blind rehabilitation unit at the VA Center, Los Angeles, California. He was born in 1921 in Port Arthur, Texas, and became blind at the age of 14 from retinitis. After completing high school, Ken earned a B.A. degree in Sociology and Economics at the University of Texas in 1944. After receiving his Teacher Certificate from the University of Pennsylvania, he was employed successively with the Texas Commission for the Blind and the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind before joining the VA.

Ken's VA Field Representative position primarily is related to the VA VIS Teams; in this capacity, for the last 8 years he has spent well over half of his time traveling north and south and east and west of the Rocky Mountains. He has maintained his office at the Hines VA Hospital, Hines, Illinois.

Ken Wiley long has been a friend of the Blinded Veterans Association. In 1973, he was the recipient of a BVA Certificate of Appreciation for his work on behalf of blinded veterans. This Certificate was presented at the BVA's 28th National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

#### AEMB ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Alliance for Engineering in Medicine and Biology (AEMB) has elected new officers and has accepted the Society for Experimental Stress Analysis (SESA) as an Associate Member.

The new officers are: Dr. Charles Weller, Larchmont, N.Y., President; Professor Robert O. Gorson, Philadelphia, Pa., re-elected Vice President; Dr. Leslie A. Geddes, West Lafayette, Ind., Secretary; and Dr. Robert Plonsey, Cleveland, Ohio, Treasurer.

The new officers were elected at the AEMB Council's annual administrative meeting in New Orleans on Sept. 23, 1975, at the 28th Annual Conference on Engineering in Medicine and Biology (ACEMB).

#### REHABILITATION CONFERENCE IN EGYPT

At the invitation of the government of Egypt, Mr. Anthony Staros, Director of the VA Prosthetics Center went to Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt, in June 1975 to offer assistance in the establishment of a rehabilitation complex to be constructed near Cairo. Mr. Staros was among several Americans who served as consultants to Madame Sadat, Chairlady of the Project, on the design of medical and rehabilitation facilities and their staffing. A conference, sponsored by the US-HEW Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Egyptian Government, was held at the same time to coordinate world-wide efforts in Rehabilitation Engineering. Mr. Staros represented the Veterans Administration at this conference.

#### TECHNICAL AIDS FOR THE SPEECH-IMPAIRED

The Swedish Institute for the Handicapped in cooperation with the International Commission on Technical Aids, Housing and Transportation (ICTA), Subcommittee of Rehabilitation International, has initiated a project in aids for the speech-impaired on an international basis.

The project aims partly at a closer study of various groups of speech-impaired, the number of persons in each group as well as their needs and prerequisites, and partly at a survey on the supply of aids.

The investigation may lead to compilation of information on research and development projects in various countries concerning technical aids for people with speech defects.

#### FRANKLIN S. COOPER, Ph. D., RECEIVES THE SILVER MEDAL IN SPEECH COMMUNICATION

Dr. Franklin S. Cooper received the first Silver Medal in Speech Communication presented by the Acoustical Society of America, November 1975, in San Francisco, California. The Silver Medal is presented not oftener than three times each year for contributions

to the advancement of science, engineering, or human welfare through the application of acoustic principles, or through research accomplishments in acoustics.

In 1935 Dr. Cooper joined with Caryl Haskins to found Haskins Laboratories for the purpose of carrying out research in biophysics. Dr. Cooper's interest in speech began near the end of World War II when the Laboratory was requested by the Office of Scientific Research and Development to coordinate a program for the development of prosthetic devices for blinded veterans. Among these was a reading machine that would translate the characters of the printed page into discrete, discriminable sounds. This research, later supported by the Veterans Administration, continues to the present and gives promise that an automatic system to "read" books and "speak" out the text is not now very far off.

Dr. Cooper has used his special gifts as scientist and human being to persuade people of different backgrounds to work together on problems of common interest, to learn from one another, and to enjoy working at Haskins Laboratories, which he has served for many years as President and Research Director.

#### **ARTHUR HELMS RECEIVES FRANCIS CAMPBELL CITATION**

Arthur Helms, retired Talking Book Production Manager, American Foundation for the Blind, received the Francis Campbell citation of the Round Table on Library Service to the Blind of the American Library Association.

The citation was awarded at a dinner in San Francisco during ALA's annual conference July 2, 1975.

Mr. Helms joined the American Foundation for the Blind in 1934 and worked assembling Talking Book machines, testing them, and shipping them. He later became a copyholder for Talking Book readers and, as the Talking Book program expanded, he participated in the making of children's records. In 1951 he became Production Manager until his retirement in 1973.

The citation is named for Sir Francis Joseph Campbell, who assumed leadership in the latter half of the nineteenth century in educating blind persons and promoting the use of braille at a time when such ideas had little acceptance. Educated at the Tennessee School for the Blind, he later became head of the Music Department in Perkins School for the Blind and founded the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music in London. For his services he was knighted in 1909 by King Edward VII.

**"SELECTED ARTICLES FROM ARTIFICIAL LIMBS" AVAILABLE**

Newly certified prosthetists and orthotists, students, and others who have not yet purchased "Selected Articles from ARTIFICIAL LIMBS" and are interested in obtaining a copy, may do so by writing to:

Krieger Publishing Co., Inc.  
P.O. Box 542  
Huntington, New York 11743

The price of the book is \$19.00. Prepaid orders will be sent postpaid.

**BPR SENSORY-AIDS EXCERPTS ON TAPE CASSETTES DISCONTINUED**

The Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., has discontinued making available to its readers excerpts from the BPR recorded on cassettes due to lack of demand.

**RAYMOND T. CARHART, PH. D., 1912-1975**

Raymond T. Carhart, Ph. D., Professor of Audiology in Northwestern University's School of Speech, Department of Communicative Disorders, as well as Professor of Otolaryngology in the NU Medical School, and long active in VA hearing-aid programs, died October 2, 1975.

Professor Carhart is considered a pioneer in the field of audiology; indeed he is among the very early users of that term. He received one of the first two Ph. D.'s given by the School of Speech at Northwestern University in 1936; since that year he was a member of the faculty of the School of Speech.

Dr. Carhart served as an acoustic physicist during World War II, with the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Administration Corps. In 1947 he founded the program in audiology at Northwestern. He was director of hearing clinics from 1947 to 1953 and has been head of the Audiology Division in the Department of Communicative Disorders since then. He was honored by an NIH appointment as Career Investigator in 1963. He served as director of the American Board of Examiners in Speech Pathology and Audiology from 1960 to 1962, and as chairman of its Education and Training Board from 1960 to 1963. He was president of the American Speech and Hearing Association in 1957. In 1960 he received the Honors of the Association from ASHA, and the Award

of Merit of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology. Dr. Carhart has also served as consultant to the Surgeon General of the Army, on NIH study sections, and as a member of the Committee on Hearing and Bioacoustics, National Research Council.



FIGURE 1.—Raymond T. Carhart, Ph. D., 1912-1975.

He served as chairman of a group of VA consultants on hearing-aid performance from the establishment of that body about 20 years ago. When the group became the initial members of an NRC panel on the same topic, he remained as the first chairman until October 1974, when he requested he be relieved to devote more time to his personal research. Thus, he had a very significant impact on the development, continuing refinement, and conduct of the VA hearing-aid selection program. In addition to bringing high-quality aids to thousands of veterans, the program has earned praise of congressmen and consumer groups. He presided fairly, firmly, and most capably, helping to expedite the work of these groups, to resolve disagreements, and to exert a salutary influence in the hearing-aid field.

Dr. Carhart and Dr. George E. Shambaugh, Jr., of the NU Medical School initially had a VA prosthetics research contract on development of an ointment prosthesis for post-fenestration cases. This method, extending a concept for a middle-ear prosthesis developed under a VA project by Dr. H.G. Kobrak at the University of Chicago and later at Wayne State University, offered mild improvement on the average, but benefitted cases with poorest re-

sults from surgery the most. Some patients continued to use this simple adjunct beneficially for many years.

Under a later VA project, a group headed by Dr. Carhart studied binaural hearing aids. They clarified the indications for binaural aids as well as other circumstances under which there was little if any advantage in using binaural compared with monaural hearing aids. Dr. Carhart stressed particularly the importance of competing messages, the head-shadow effect, and the substantial deterioration of performance of a hard-of-hearing person using an aid or aids in noisy or competitive-utterance situations compared with quiet. (These studies set the stage for the development of the CROS hearing aid and its numerous variants.) His research project then investigated systematically a number of testing methods and masking situations.

Although he is gone, his many students will undoubtedly continue to serve the hearing-impaired with greater competence for having known him. His pioneering research results will continue to influence the design and dispensing of hearing aids.