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Henry IX

This is the first time I've edited a Newsletter. The pleasant thing about it, is that being acting editor, I can please myself what to include; I'm even immune from Hofstetter, the President, (and Editor) of the Society, as he is somewhere across the Ocean. Now, having this newly found "power", I can take the opportunity to say a few words about the President! Indeed, with your permission, gentle reader, I'm dedicating this issue of the Newsletter to the President, Dr. Henry W. Hofstetter. The reason for this is (a) that if he were the editor his modesty would forbid it, and he wouldn't think of it (b) this is a very opportune time, historically, to pay some sort of tribute to him. As you will no doubt have read in the optometric journals, as from June, 1970, Hofstetter stepped down from being Director of the Division of Optometry, Indiana University, in order to devote "full time to teaching, research and writing" as a change from about a quarter of a century devoted primarily to administration. He of course remains on the faculty as Professor. I shall not review his curriculum vitae (the publications of which alone run to 114 pages) but will merely cite some aspects of his career. H. W. H. was born in Windsor, Ashtabula County, Ohio, September 10, 1914. He was reared on a farm and attended Western Reserve & Kent State University. He received his Optometry training at The Ohio State University (B. Sc., 1939) and proceeded to M. Sc. in Physiological Optics (1940), being recipient of the first Ph. D. in Physiological Optics (1942). As a somewhat cautious, persevering and "slow" type of academic, it took him all of six years before he had climbed the academic professorial rungs at Ohio State and became Dean at Los Angeles College! He remained at L. A., for three years, and was then appointed Professor of Optometry and Director of Indiana University's newly created Division of Optometry. He has been a member, at one time or another, of over forty organizations, ranging from Optometric Societies to the American Society of Human Genetics. A little delving revealed that he has received several honorary doctorates, and numerous other honors and awards. A brief glance through his file (I did say he was out of the country and hardly in a position to prevent me!!) revealed that his lectures, chairmanships, presidencies, literally go into the hundreds. His publications (201 to date) vary from editorials, book reviews, papers, to monographs and books, including a dictionary. I am aware, that as an historian, I ought to be more specific and detailed. But why should I be, as editor! It's purely an historical tribute ending an era, and the last thing I want is for it to read like an obituary. It is not a case of "The King is dead; Long live the King". The truth is Henry the Hofstetter is very much alive, and we wish him good luck in his future teaching, research and writing.

History is to-day. . . Hofstetter's eminently worthy successor is Dr. Gordon G. Heath. His early Optometric student days also stem

back to Los Angeles, under Hofstetter's reign. Los Angeles, followed by Berkeley, and then Indiana. Los Angeles to Indiana, sounds like a familiar trail. . . Perhaps we may conclude with an almost analogous historical poser: What Professor, author of a book of optics, upon his resignation was succeeded by his former pupil, subsequently author of a great contribution to optics and vision? The answer goes back some 300 years. Isaac Barrow (1630-1677), author of Optical Lectures (1674), was followed by the great Isaac Newton (1642-1727), author of Opticks (1704). Both were Professors of Mathematics at Cambridge University. So, history can repeat itself. . .

Bookshelf

The latest historical book relating to Optometry, is James E. Lebensohn (editor), An Anthology of Ophthalmic Classics, (Williams & Wilkins Co., 407 p., \$16.00).

Nominations, please

Unless I'm mistaken, it is nomination time. It is approaching the end of the first term of office for Maria Dablemont, our Secretary-Treasurer. Maria has done a splendid job, and, of course, I for one hope she is re-nominated to continue the good work. She gets my vote.

Richard Liebreich and the Earliest Fundus Atlas

Probably the first fundus atlas was that produced by Richard Liebreich, in 1863, although the first published illustration of the fundus appeared ten years earlier. Twelve years had elapsed since von Helmholtz's construction of the ophthalmoscope (1851) before the atlas made its appearance. It seems incredible after looking through the atlas, that comparatively so short a time prior to its publication, the interior pathology of the eye had remained a great unknown. Containing the vivid portrayal and description of conditions such as glaucoma, retinitis pigmentosa, retinal detachment, hemorrhages, the optic disc in myopia, the appearance of the atlas must have seemed like an exciting new picture book! Within about twenty years the book had passed through several editions, with subsequent editions in English, French, and Spanish, the original (first) edition having been published in both the French and German languages.

Richard Liebreich was born 30 June, 1830, at Königsberg. After completing his medical studies at Berlin and Halle, he proceeded to post graduate work with Brücke in Berlin and then with Donders at Utrecht. He was the first assistant in von Graefe's Clinic, his instructor in the art of ophthalmoscopy having been von Helmholtz. After practicing for several years in Berlin and Paris, and for a period of seven years as ophthalmic surgeon at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, he returned to Paris, where he remained for the rest of his life.

How sophisticated, in retrospect, the modern fundus atlases must have appeared to him, towards the end of his life (1917), with their greater accuracy and detail! Liebreich's creativity extended to

other aspects of ophthalmology, for example, instrumentation and surgical technique, to say nothing of his non-medical talents. For ophthalmology was only one facet of his various accomplishments. His obituary notice in the British Medical Journal, describes him as having been a 'distinguished ophthalmologist, painter, and sculptor. . .' and we could just add linguist.

It was the fine arts that finally claimed his complete attention in his later years. Apart from his paintings and sculptures, he was especially interested in the correlation of painting techniques and peculiarities of coloring, in paintings, by the various great masters, to the anomalies and changes in their visual apparatus. One of his detailed studies was embodied in an account of the works of Turner and Mulready.

In 1917, he could sincerely look back on an active and full life, having duly distinguished himself as ophthalmologist, painter and sculptor. . .He died in Paris at the age of eighty-seven.

The 1st Honorary Member

Miss Margaret Mitchell, M. A., F. B. O. A., has been elected as the first Honorary Member of the Society. Miss Mitchell, Librarian and Curator of the famous British Optical Association Library and Museum, in London, is also the Assistant Editor of The Ophthalmic Optician. I can report to our members that she was sincerely delighted "at the great honour." Miss Mitchell has had a long and distinguished career with the B. O. A., and has also found time to write the occasional historical paper, in addition to having edited the British Optical Association Library and Museum Catalogues.

A 15th Century Eye Cure

Lynn Thorndike, in his Science and Thought in the 15th Century (1929) recounts Bistichius' eye treatment, as follows:--

"To cure films in the eyes of beasts, grind glass thoroughly and sift it well with a sieve and put it in the beasts' eyes, and within five days they will be cured."

Great Men of Vision: 1970 Anniversaries

Bernard S. Albinus (1697-1770). His claim to our attention is in connection with the mechanism of accommodation; he proposed that changes in corneal curvature were responsible.

Richard Banister (1570-1626), an itinerant English oculist, who was one of the first people to recognize absolute Glaucoma. He was the author of an historically important Breviary.

Albrecht von Graefe (1828-1870), was the eminent Berlin ophthalmic surgeon.

A. Tschermak (1870-?) was Professor of physiology, Prague, and is remembered particularly for his researches on binocular vision.

The Monocle

An American is supposed to have commented that "Some ailments necessitate the wearing of a monocle. Being an Englishman is one of them." I wonder if one of our readers could let the editor know who was the American that originated the comment? The editor is an Englishman, who does not wear a monocle, but admits to having fitted several monocles while in Optometric practice. They were all fitted within the short period of some 18 months, the reason being that at this particular time, he was in practice near a famous military barracks, and the young officers found such plano lenses indispensable to complete their sartorial elegance, even if it did nothing for their visual acuity. The editor also remembers the occasion when one of his patients ordering a new cord for his monocle and although in person, he requested that it be gift-wrapped and "delivered" to him. The day after the patient received the cord, he returned to have the cord "fitted" to the monocle. I would be interested to know from members of the Society, what they feel would have been their professional fee for threading the cord through the monocle, bearing in mind "the messing about" that had ensued in sending the cord etc. The editor would like to hear what the members consider (a) a reasonable fee, if any, and (b) an exorbitant fee.

Contributions, please

Since the President's opening paragraph of the last Newsletter mentioned that someone else would be editor, correspondence from members has ceased! Intentional or not, your temporary editor would request that you not remain silent until the return of the President and Editor. After all, I do have to have 'news' for issues 4 and 5!

J. R. Levene, Editor

Bibliography
of the
History of Eyeglasses

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The bibliography does not claim to be complete, but it does aim to list the main publications on the subject.

It is a pleasure to thank my research assistant, Mrs. LeaAnne Bernstein, for her great help.

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*For abbreviations, see page 16.

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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

DOW	== Deutsche Optische Wochenschrift. Weimar.
Opt.	== The Optician. London.
ZfoO	== Zeitschrift fur ophthalmologische Optik. Berlin.

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