

NEWSLETTER OF THE
OPTOMETRIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(243 North Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63141, U.S.A.)

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Number 2

1981 officers elected:

The members of the Executive Board promptly re-elected James Leeds as President with James Tumblin as Vice President and Maria Dablemont as Secretary-Treasurer.

About our finances:

Our dedicated Secretary-Treasurer gives the following breakdown of mailing costs of the January newsletter.

163	U.S. at 40¢	\$65.20
3	U.S. hand delivered	0.00
9	Puerto Rico at 40¢	3.60
5	Canada at 40¢	2.00
<u>35</u>	<u>other countries at 53¢</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>18.55</u>
TOTAL	215	TOTAL	\$89.35

The printing charges, an incredible bargain at \$92.08, brought the total cost of one quarterly issue to \$181.43, approximately one sixth of our total \$5.00 membership income. Multiplying this quarterly cost by four, the remainder comes to just over \$300.00 for all other expenses. Postage has gone up 20% since the January issue was posted, and the postal services are asking for more.

The officers invite your comments, which should be addressed to Maria Dablemont, Secretary-Treasurer.

Incidentally, you may be curious as to the "other" countries represented among our members. They are Australia, Canada, Canary Islands, Colombia, England, France, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, and Switzerland.

We are reminded that if we have not paid our 1981 dues yet, it will save the O.H.S. 18¢ postage and 4¢ for the envelope and paper, disregarding the extra labor cost, if we will send our \$5.00 checks immediately.

On contact lens history:

Though contact lenses are quite properly regarded as of recent development, they do in fact have a 500 year history, giving rise to increasingly frequent gestures to recite the history, usually with a minimum of research. Occasionally a brief historical review of contact lens history is made by one who happens to be old enough to have been contemporary with the developments that enabled contacts to become commonplace and who, therefore, like the blind person who observed the elephant, believes he witnessed the whole event. So it is of interest that Miss Rosemary Bailey, the first woman president of the British Contact Lens Association, took as the theme of her 1980 Presidential Address on September 18 the history of contact lens theory and practice. Says the unidentified reporter for the November 8, 1980, issue of the Ophthalmic Optician, Vol. 20, No. 22. page 788,: "This vast subject can seldom have been as well researched, or presented with a greater wealth of illustrations".

History of the Window:

During his long and close association with Adolf Hitler, Albert Speer served as the principle architect and later the Minister of Armaments for the Third Reich. In the fall of 1946 Speer was sentenced to twenty years imprisonment by the Nuremburg judges. Feeling a great need to put his thoughts on paper and also to occupy the endless hours, Speer devised a route by which he smuggled clandestine notes out of Spandau prison to his family. After twenty years the papers accumulated to over 25,000 pieces. It was from these notes that he published two books after his release, Inside the Third Reich (1970) and Spandau - The Secret Diaries (1976). In this latter book Speer mentions in several entries that he is actively researching a rather unique but historically interesting subject - the history of the window. Below is the diary entry for July 25, 1965 .

"Used the Sunday to copy out a batch of notes on the cultural history of the window. Even since a former associate now employed in the Berlin Central Library has discovered which books might be useful for this work of mine, she has been showering material on me. At the moment I am principally concerned with the comparative costs of glass and other building materials during the period from the Middle Ages to the High Renaissance.

"Along with this, I want to find out, by comparing wages, what value a square meter of light had at different periods, measured in hours of labor. From home I have

recently received word that already more than 600 pages of documentation have piled up."

To my knowledge Speer's work on the history of the window has not been published. (DKP)

President Kruger's ocular problems:

Hans Coetzee, psychologist on the faculty of the University of the North, South Africa, recently brought to my attention a book containing pharmaceutical prescriptions that were dispensed in the years 1897 to 1899 in a drugstore in Pretoria. The book was found several months ago in what Hans describes as "the dark, huge, creepy" cellars of the J. Peacock Pharmacy in Church Square, Pretoria. By extrapolating backwards from the prescription number in this single volume, the drugstore has existed on this site since 1889.

The fascinating part of this book are the names of South African history which it contains. Many minor figures were pointed out by Hans, but the real surprise was to find a prescription for Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger (1825-1904). Kruger was President of the Transvaal 1883-1900, but is mainly remembered worldwide for the park named after him, the Kruger National Park Game Reserve. Further interest was aroused when I noticed that the prescription contained cocaine hydrochloride. Since this prescription was in Afrikaans, (only Rx's for high Afrikaans officials were in Afrikaans, the rest in English!) Joan Lombard of the University of the North's Department of Pharmacy translated for me.

December 1898

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Kruger President

Rx	Zine Supphate	1 grain
	Glycerine	1 drahm
	Distilled water up to	(2 fluid ounces)

Eye drops:

To be dropped (instilled) into the eyes three times a day.

Rx	Lotion Mecuric Perchloride	1 pint
	Cocaine Hydrochloride	10 grains
	Manufacture lotion	
	To bath the eyes now and then	

The answers to my inevitable questions were found in the library in a book entitled Paul Kruger-His Life and Times by John Fisher (1974-p. 12)

"The Victorians knew Kruger for what he had become on the drawing boards of British cartoonists: a coarse old peasant with fists like hams, a sullen expression, swollen eyelids (the lashes grew inwards and caused Kruger intense discomfort), a scrubby beard, a barrel chest over which his frockcoat could scarcely be buttoned, a theatrical sash of office, baggy trousers, a reeking pipe and an incongruous top-hat".

So the conclusion from this description and photos I've seen is entropion with trichiasis and blepharochalasis. In the year 1900 Prof. Snellen operated on both of Kruger's eyes in Utrecht, Holland. I was unable to find out if this rectified the problem.

It is interesting to note that Kruger wore small gold rings in his ears, believing them to be an aid to his eyesight. (DKP)

Philatelic Optics:

Two 1980 East Germany stamps of optical interest appeared on the Christmas letter received from Augenoptiker (optometrist) Heinrich Fleck of Aue, D.D.R. One, of denomination 25 Marks, is a colorful illustration of the "Mikroskop von Magny, Paris um 1751". The other, of denomination 70 Marks, illustrated the "Mikroskop von Zeiss, Jena 1873". Both identified the location of these microscopes in the "Optisches Museum der Carl-Zeiss-Stiftung Jena".

Tonometric history:

Many issues ago I expressed in this newsletter a bit of curiosity about an article in Russian entitled "The 90th Anniversary of Maklakov's Applanation Tonometer". Israel Dvorine, O.D., responded that he could read Russian and would like to read the article, perhaps translate it. We, therefore, procured a photocopy of the article for Doctor Dvorine and he very promptly translated it.

I told him that we would be pleased to print the translation in this newsletter, but that I thought it deserved wider readership for its educational as well as historical value. In Dr. Dvorine's behalf I submitted it to The Journal of Optometric Education where it was rejected as inappropriate to the role of that publication. Next we

submitted it to the American Journal of Optometry and Physiological Optics. There, after favorable review by its referees, it was accepted but long delayed due to a backlog of articles with chronological priority. Finally it appeared in the February 1981 issue, Vol. 58, No. 2, pages 183-185.

The Russian author is Professor M.R. Vurgaft, Department of Ophthalmology of Kazonsky Institute. Perhaps his most interesting quotation is "It is difficult to explain why this tonometer has remained basically unknown in the western world". (HWH)

Optics and musical genius:

J.B. Addensrooke Phillips has gathered some interesting bits of information ~~pertaining~~ to vision and the world of classical music in an article entitled Optics and Musical Genius published in The Ophthalmic Optician (Vol. 20 No. 21. October 25, 1980). The assemblage of the famous includes the composers: Sir Henry Wood, Frederick Delius, Franz Schubert, Sir Edward Elgar, and the composers: Arturo Toscanini, Luigi Spontini and Fritz Reiner.

Always the skeptic, I question Phillips' statement that Tosconini conducted from memory because "his eyesight was so poor that he could not see his musical scores", but it does make for a nice story! (DKP)

What is "optometric history"?:

Having been intimately involved in the teaching of a one-credit-hour course in "History of Optometry" at Indiana University for several years, I was not surprised to find a one-credit-hour course entitled "Optometric History"/Historial Optométrico" in the projected curriculum of the new School of Optometry/Escuela de Optometría at Inter American University of Puerto Rico/Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico. In both curricula these courses were listed in the first semester of the third year.

Then, one day, I happened to read the description of the latter course. Surprise, surprise! Here it is. "The role and significance of case history taking. Method of obtaining and evaluating a patient's ocular and environmental complaints; patient and family medical and ocular history. Vocational and avocational visual demands and patient evaluation".

I do not want to believe it. (HWH)

Reciprocally awesome:

A routine membership notice dated February 1979 for 1979 and or 1980 O.H.S. dues to Felix Sánchez Vélez, O.D., of Santurce, Puerto Rico elicited the following spontaneous reply penned at the bottom of the notice:

"Dear Historians: Good Show!! Here's some \$ to help with your very fine work. Awefully yours, Felix J. Sánchez, 328 De Diego, Santurce, PR"

He enclosed 5-ten dollar bills (\$50).

Dickenson and Neill memorialized:

The late Frank Dickenson and John Neill, optometrists, are now honored by the creation of the Dickenson-Neill Memorial Lecture by the International Society of Contact Lens Specialists.

Van Gogh's vision:

A very yellowish cover with a portrait of doctor Gachet by Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890), an article about it by M.T. Southgate on pages 657 and 688, and an article entitled "Van Gogh's Vision", by T.C. Lee on pages 727-729, are features of the February 20, 1981, issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 245, No. 7. Author Lee discusses the relationship between Van Gogh's fondness for the yellow and his painting of the digitalis leaf. A very sophisticated bit of speculation.

Almost lost in the postal shuffle:

In the July 1980 issue, mention was made of the historical booklet published by the Southern California College of Optometry entitled LOOKING BACKWARD-LOOKING FORWARD 1904-1974. Immediately, Dr. R.L. Hopping, President of the College, wrote to tell us that any OHS member desiring a copy may obtain one by merely sending a request to him at 2001 Associated Road, Fullerton, California 92631.

His memorandum almost got lost between the peripatetic editors variously located in Indiana, South Africa, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

Similarly, a copy of an April 24, 1980, letter from Maria Dablemont, Librarian/Archivist of the International Library, Archives, and Museum of Optometry, to Jacob Staiman, O.D., got shunted around the globe a bit. The letter was

an acknowledgement of Dr. Staiman's donation of 51 pair of spectacles and five spectacle cases variously identified with the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.

A photograph of Dr. Staiman and part of his collection appeared in the September 1, 1978, issue of the AOA News, page 13. (HWH)

Ophthalmic optics in Japan:

Recently Mr. Yoshihiro Fukuda, President of the Japan Optometric and Optical Association, sent me two handsomely bound books. The larger one, of more than 180 pages, approximately 26 x 26 cm, is entirely in Japanese and includes dozens of photographs. According to Mr. Fukuda the book is a history of "30 YEARS OF OSAKA OPTICAL RETAILER ASSOCIATION" and was published in May, 1978.

One of the photographs, on page 88, shows a group of about 150 persons posed in academic robes on the broad front steps of an institutional type of building. At the bottom of the photograph appears the hand-lettered identification "STUDENTS OF THE OPTOMETRICAL COURSE GIVEN AT OSAKA FEBRUARY 1926."

On page 98 is a photograph which illustrates the 1918 issue of "The Great American Jewelry Catalog" of The Oskamp-Nolting Co. CINCINNATI, OHIO, U.S.A." and what appears to be another copy of the same catalog open to pages 676 and 677 showing "ZYLONITE EYEGLASSES", "ZILO AND METAL RIMS", "Society Folding Eyeglass", and other types of eyewear for which the legend was too blurred to identify.

On page 17 is a reproduction of a diploma of the "American Optometrical College, Shanghai, China" issued for attendance of a course in Osaka in 1926. On the same page is a photograph of a person whom I presume to be of Dr. D. Desmond.

Mr. Fukuda kindly provided a translation of much of the book, which follows (and of the other book as well, which will be reviewed in a subsequent issue of this newsletter). (HWH)

History of spectacles in Japan

The old book tells us that spectacles came to Japan in the civil war days in our country (1532-1555). In 1541 a Portuguese ship was cast away on the coast of Kyushu, the southern island of Japan, and

among the curiosities on board were "glasses which enable aged people to see clearly." It is not clear from this expression whether these "glasses" were actually a pair of spectacles or just loupes, but it can be easily imagined that they were convex lenses. The foreign missionaries first put on spectacles. The people then were said to be afraid of those missionaries as devils with four eyes. Since then, many rare articles including spectacles have come to Japan through China and Philippines. Among articles once belonging to Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa, and now kept in the Nikko Treasury near Tokyo, are two pairs of spectacles. It was during the Kan'ei Era (1624-1643) that spectacles began to be manufactured in our country, being stimulated by imported telescopes. The old book which listed all kinds of occupations existing at that period, referred, among others, to spectacle manufacturers, tortoiseshell workers and glass-grinding men. In that period spectacles were sold freely without any prescriptions from oculists and the customers were very roughly classified according to their age; elderly, middle-aged and young. The 8th Tokugawa Shogun (1716-1735) reformed the calendar which promoted greatly the development of optical instruments. Some Osaka people succeeded in inventing an observation instrument which contributed to the new calendar named the Kansei Calendar and later to the land survey of the whole of Japan conducted in 1806 by Tadataka Inoo. In 1789, the first telescope was manufactured in our country. This means that optical lenses, too, were manufactured in our country and that the lens processing technique was considerably improved. In the early 1800's, when Japanese culture was at its full glory, many story books were published, which rapidly increased the demand for spectacles. It was during this period that spectacles became popular among ordinary people. It was mentioned in literature in 1690 that there was a spectacle manufacturer in Osaka, and, in fact, the shopping guide book published in 1692 referred to several manufacturers in Osaka. Hikojiro Kaji I, the sixth Hikojiro Kaji was the first president of the Osaka Optical Trade Union, our former organization, started his business in 1752.

Meiji and Taisho Eras (1868-1926)

In 1870, there were five spectacle shops in Osaka, seven in 1877, 12 in 1887, 19 in 1904 and 52 in 1911. The six leading shops formed a group named "Six Powers".

Together, they submitted their spectacles to various exhibitions and enjoyed a good reputation. These six powers played an important role in founding the Osaka Optical Trade Union later. In those days, spectacle shops sold not only spectacles but also thermometers, water glasses, etc. Shops were usually opened at seven or eight in the morning and closed at ten or eleven at night. From early morning till late at night they worked hard at their business. No one complained that he worked too long or too hard. Moreover, there were no advertisements and no fussing. Shops were closed only three or four days a year. Workers were not given wages every month; they were only given a small amount of pocket money at the end of the month. Salaries were paid only twice a year, in summer and at the end of the year. On the last day of the year all shops, including spectacle shops, were very crowded with people with a bit of money; in fact, many shops remained open all that night.

Edging of lenses

The edging of lenses needs a high technique, and in 19th century each shop had its own secret technique for edging. An iron plate was used then as a grinder. An iron plate of about 4 cm in width was curved and put into a pail filled with water. (See the pictures in page 15.) Emery powder dissolved in water was poured into the iron groove. By moving a lens back and forth in the groove, the lens was edged. Further edging was made using a willow plank. (See the pictures in page 15.) Since all work was done by hand, edging required skill, and to get the knack of it, it took many years of experience.

In the 1910's, the edging of lenses was done with a grindstone made of glass, which was rotated by working a treadle.

In 1889, an electric light was lighted in some homes in Osaka but it had not yet spread throughout the city. Then in 1909 and 1912, there were big fires in Osaka and many houses were burnt down. This encouraged the spread of electric lighting throughout Osaka, and spectacle shops, too, changed to electrical power.

The Osaka Optical Trade Union is established in 1922

After the Tokyo Optical Trade Union was established in 1914, Osaka people desired to have their own union in Osaka. The leaders were six people of the group,

"Six Powers". In 1922, the Osaka Optical Trade Union was established. Only one year later, there was a big earthquake in Tokyo. As soon as the news reached Osaka, the members of the Osaka Union gathered to discuss what help they could provide for Tokyo. A lot of money was collected to give to the Tokyo Optical Trade Union. This was a remarkable social activity for the fledgling Osaka Trade Union to assume so soon.

Educational lectures given by Dr. D. Desmond in 1926

In 1926, Dr. D. Desmond visited Japan and delivered a three-week educational lecture series, the first one Japan had ever had, in Osaka. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day, many people listened to his lectures and stared in wonder at the latest optical equipment and instruments which they didn't know how to use at all. The lectures given by Dr. Desmond were not of ophthalmology but of optometry independent from ophthalmology. In his lectures, he warned and urged us to take responsibilities for public eye care and for improved cultural life of the nation. The lectures were attended by 250 people, including some from Taiwan and Korea.

Dr. Desmond, who was a chief technical staff and up-and-coming optometrist of the American Optical Company, impressed us greatly with his deep academic and practical knowledge. The 250 in attendance gained insight into the development of world optometry and understanding of what optometry was and should be. In addition, they gained confidence and hope for their future. This lecture series was really an epoch-making event for the modernization of our profession which consisted of only merchants and craftsmen. It was also the most important activity of the Osaka Optical Trade Union in its early days.

Dr. Desmond's lecture subjects were:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Optics | 8. Eye tests and testing instruments |
| 2. Lens processing | 9. Eye diseases |
| 3. Eccentricity | 10. Correction by fogging method |
| 4. Lens finishing | 11. Tests of ocular muscles |
| 5. Eye anatomy | 12. Good salesmen |
| 6. Eyes and spectacles | |
| 7. Eye tests | |

The Japan Optometric Association
is established in 1926

On the final day of the lecture series by Dr. Desmond, those in attendance decided to establish the Japan Optometric Association in order to exchange information and to study optometry more deeply. But the association soon went out of existence, as the time was not quite ripe for it. It gave, however, useful suggestions as to the future course of the profession.

Taisho Era and the early years of Showa (1912-1930)

These years were dark years when the economic conditions were not good. During this period, some opticians went to the States to study optometry, after being inspired by the lectures of Dr. Desmond. In optical store, modern instruments such as a holopter, ophthalmometer and a refractometer, began to be used. Most of the frames were of metal, and some were imported from the American Optical Company, some lenses were also imported from Carl Zeiss and AOC.

Educational lectures in 1930's

The Osaka Optical Retailers Union was established by optical retailers under the Osaka Optical Trade Union in the 1930's

In the 1930's, troubles began to occur with ophthalmologists in some areas concerning eye examinations. In Osaka, however, troubles were not serious, since the Osaka Optical Retailers Union often held educational lectures with the cooperation of the Ophthalmologists' Association of Osaka. In 1930, the first three-day lecture series was held. The lecturers were leading ophthalmologists of Osaka.

It was very successful and some 100 optical retailers attended. It became an annual event from the next year on and many people attended from various parts of Japan.

The War period (1940-1945)

In 1940, the sumptuary law was established, prohibiting luxurious spectacles. When national mobilization was instituted, many optical shops were managed by the old people and women left after young shop owners and salesmen went to war or to the munitions industry. In 1941, just after entering into the World War II, all Japanese industries were reorganized and in 1943

the Osaka Optical Trade Union was obliged to be disbanded, too. The new organization, including watch retailers, was established instead. As the war continued, many optical shops were forced to close due to the reorganization, a shortage of goods, the conscription to the war and the munitions industry and the evacuation to the local areas. In 1945, Osaka was heavily bombed and when the war ended, Osaka was just a wide stretch of burnt ruins.

The Osaka Optical Retailers Association is
re-established in 1947 after the war

In 1947, the first general meeting was held, with 59 members. the most urgent task of the Association was to increase the number of its members.

In 1949, the educational lecture courses, which had been suspended during the war, were resumed at Osaka University. The first one resumed after the war was a long course of 17 days with 32 hours in total, attended by 175 persons, of whom 153 were given certificates.

(In this translation, the Osaka Optical Retailers Association is referred to as the Association.)

The Osaka Eye Health Association
is established in 1950

In 1950, the Osaka Eye Health Association was established under the auspices of Osaka Prefecture and the Osaka Ophthalmologists' Association. Osaka Prefecture was at that time suffering from various important problems-trachoma, school myopia, blindness, etc. and they thought that with the cooperation of ophthalmologists the new organization would serve to solve their problems. The Osaka Optical Retailers Association took the leadership. The Association had thought that now that their members had been educated and trained, it was unreasonable that there were no social and legal recognition for their technique and their status. They expected the new organization would serve to lead to such recognition. The Eye Health Association sponsored educational lectures to raise the standard of opticians, and also designated "good optical shops" and later "Gankyoshi" (qualified opticians). It played a very important role in establishing an organization of qualified opticians and an optical school in Osaka.

"Good optical shops" system

In 1951, 58 shops were designated as "good optical shops" by the Osaka Eye Health Association. These shops passed the severe screening as to their facilities, hygienic conditions and the standard of the opticians working for them. This system highly inspired the profession.

Eye Day campaign

October 10th was set as Eye Day as early as in 1930, and since then the optical industry has conducted eye care campaign on that day. On October 10th, 1950, the Osaka Ophthalmologists' Association sponsored free eye screening at three spots in Osaka, where the members of the Association helped the ophthalmologists. On the day before, some members became blind for one day, patrolling the streets in order to campaign against blindness. In 1951, the Ministry of Health & Welfare decided to make an Eye Day campaign nationwide on October 10th every year. In 1950 the population of Osaka Prefecture was 3.85 million and that of Osaka City 1.95 million.

Qualification tests for opticians started in 1955

Since the end of the war, and the consequent stabilization of Japanese society, the Osaka Optical Retailers Association had been taking steady steps forward. It had already sponsored four educational courses with success. Now it was time to consider a definite qualification of opticians. In 1955, after careful discussion for several years, the first qualification test for opticians was conducted by the Osaka Eye Health Association. The test was made for academic knowledge and practical skill, with ophthalmologists as judges. 50 opticians passed with excellent results. The Osaka Eye Health Association as well as the Association were satisfied with the results. In the second test, the applicants were encouraged by the Osaka Governor, and 41 passed the test.

Spectacle fashion show is held in 1955

In 1955, a fashion show of spectacles was held in the Osaka Gymnasium under the joint auspices of the Osaka Optical Wholesalers Association and about 6,000 people gathered at the show. The show tried to reevaluate spectacles as fashion goods. Following

the show there was an exhibition of the latest models and also seminar meetings were held.

Social activities

The members visited old people's homes, where they conducted sight tests and fitted spectacles for them. The Association presented spectacles to poor students and the elderly. The population of Osaka Prefecture in 1955 was 4.61 million and that of Osaka City 2.54 million.

Japan Opticians Association is established in 1956

In 1956, 78 opticians who passed the qualification tests of the Osaka Eye Health Association gathered to establish the Japan Opticians Association, so that they could improve their knowledge and skill through continuous education. Professor Y. Uyama, President of the Osaka Eye Health Association, congratulated the organization at its outset, and encouraged the members to devote themselves to public eye care and to the development of the profession.

The new organization born in Osaka drew the attention of opticians all over Japan, many of whom wanted to join and work together. The Ministry of Health & Welfare asked us for a readily understandable description of "qualified opticians" and their organization.

Meanwhile there was an increase in requests from opticians in other areas than Osaka to admit them to take a qualification test and to membership in the Japan Opticians Association.

The Association and the Japan Opticians Association decided to accept their request. Thus the national unity of the profession entered upon a new phase by widening the membership all over Japan.

In this year, the book entitled Basic Knowledge for Opticians was published by the Osaka Eye Health Association with the cooperation of ophthalmologists. Since the economy had been so healthy, the sales of spectacles had increased considerably. The economic boom influenced even the advertisements of optical stores, which began to use the words "eye examinations" in their advertisements. Ophthalmologists were irritated by this and they gave us a warning. The Association discussed the matter and decided to refrain from using the words "eye examinations".

All Japan Optical Commercial and Industrial Federation is established in 1957

This organization is a nationwide unified organization covering all the fields of the optical industry. It was expected that the Federation would provide a wide over-view, as well as leadership in promoting the whole optical industry.

A unified prescription form

In 1957, the Association issued a unified prescription form and asked public hospitals to use this form for their patients. On the back side of the form, the names of "good optical shops" were printed, while on the envelope for the form, instructions for the daily use of spectacles were given. Later, private eye clinics wanted to use the form for their patients, too.

A contact lens study meeting is held in 1958

Since interest was growing in contact lenses, which were advertised in a catch-phrase "Good-bye to spectacles!", many members felt it necessary to study about contact lenses. Thus the Ministry of Health & Welfare issued a notification concerning contact lenses this year.

Qualifications are set for a new membership in 1959

In 1959 necessary qualifications were set for admission to a membership in the Association.

1. To have the facilities stipulated in the articles of the Association.
2. To have the facilities stipulated by the Osaka Eye Health Association as necessary for "good optical shops".
3. The name of the shop should not be a "watch shop".

The New Pharmaceutical Law in 1961

The New Pharmaceutical Law was enforced in 1961. The new Law provided that optical retailers had to register their business and that optical lenses were to be included in the medical goods to be controlled by the Pharmaceutical Law. The optical goods which were designated as medical goods were:

1. Eye examination instruments
 2. Spectacles for sight correction
 3. Optical lenses (including contact lenses
 4. Test charts and color blindness test charts
- Since, by the new Law, we were closely connected with the Ministry of Health & Welfare, it was expected that this would lead to the introduction of a law governing opticians.

The movement toward the establishment
of an optical school became active

In this year, there grew a strong movement among the members to establish an optical school in Osaka. It was in line with the trend of the times and became the most important issue for the Association to tackle.

Screening of weak-sighted children

As one of the social activities of the Association, screening was carried out for amblyopia of school children in 23 schools in total, for 23 days in 1961. Dr. K. Kozaki was a chief supervisor of this screening. The data obtained in the screening were referred to as highly important when the Osaka Children's Center was to be established later.

The eye bank movement

The law concerning corneal transplantation was passed in 1958 and an eye bank opened in Osaka University in the next year. The members of the Association co-operated in the movement, by hanging the plastic sign boards of the eye bank, delivering leaflets to their customers and preparing registration forms for donors. The first person to register with the Osaka Eye Bank was the Osaka Governor.

Japan Optical Technicians Association
is established in 1965

It had been widely agreed that the Japan Opticians Association should not remain as a private organization, but should play more active role as a public corporation. In 1965, the Ministry of Health & Welfare authorized the Japan Opticians Association as a public corporation, whereupon the organization changed its name to

the Japan Optical Technicians Association and made a new start with a greater responsibility as an authorized body. On this occasion, the Japan Optical Technicians Association became completely independent from the Association, though the latter would give continuous support to the former.

Japan Optical Technique School of Osaka opens in 1968

When a supporters' organization for the school was formed, the Association appealed to the members for subscription. Ophthalmologists extended guidance and help to the school. In 1968, the long-awaited Japan Optical Technique School of Osaka was opened. Honorary Professor of Osaka University, Dr. Y. Uyama, who is also an honorary member of Japan Ophthalmology Academy, was appointed Dean of the school.

A movement against standard retail prices is provoked in 1971

The Association proposed to its upper organization, the Japan Optometric and Optical Association that no standard prices or desired prices should be put to us retailers by manufacturers. It was adopted as a proposal to be further discussed. Our arguments against the indication of standard prices by manufacturers were that a retail price should be worked out on our own responsibility, since most of the goods we buy from manufacturers were not "perfect" without our treatment. We insisted that we should be more confident of our knowledge and skill which should be reflected in a retail price.

The Council of the three educational bodies starts in anticipation of legalization of opticians in 1971

In 1971, the Ministry of Health & Welfare ordered the establishment of a council of the three educational bodies, namely, the Tokyo and Osaka Optical Schools and the Optical Education Promotional Association (established in 1967). This was in anticipation of a coming law governing opticians.

The quality indication becomes obligatory
for sunglasses in 1974

A government order was issued in 1974, to make it obligatory to indicate the quality for sunglasses.

President of the Japan Optical Technicians Association
Mr. T. Takaoka is honored by the Government for
his distinguished service for eye care in 1975

Discount stores increase nationwide and the Association
starts to investigate the actual state in 1976

The first discount store opened in the Kyushu area around 1972 and by 1976 there were some 30 discount stores in Osaka. They did advertise their discount by newspapers, radio, T.V. and handbills. As the first step, the Association, together with the Osaka Watch, Jewel and Spectacle Retailers Association requested those discount stores to practice self-control. We pointed out that since standard retail prices were no more being indicated by manufacturers, there was no basis for 50% or 30% discount off the standard retail prices and such advertisement would be deceptive for customers. Discount to cover up a lack of their skill would never lead to the elevation of their standards, but to a loss of dignity for the whole profession.

A panel discussion is held entitled "Let's consider
problems concerning spectacles !" in 1977

The panelists were a representative of the consumers group, officials from the Osaka Office of the Ministry of Trade & Industry and the Hygiene Department of Osaka Prefecture, and an ophthalmologist. The Association sent two representatives. The representative of the consumers presented following problems from the consumers' side:

1. Price construction is unclear.
2. Consumers need more sufficient explanation about prices and qualities of spectacles.
3. There should be complaint counters or the like regarding spectacles.
4. Opticians should be recognized by the Government.

We explained about retail prices and also our attitude toward consumers. We realized in this discussion that there should be more frequent dialogue with

consumers, and the "good optical shops", on which consumers could rely for spectacles, should be more publicized.

President of the Association attends the 50th Annual Congress of the International Optometric and Optical League held in Düsseldorf in 1977

Japanese opticians felt it necessary to develop the profession together with world optometry.

Two leaflets are published for better information for customers

These were leaflets entitled "Correct Spectacles" (12 pages) and "Family Eye" (16 pages). 1,000 copies each were presented to the Osaka Consumers' Center to be distributed to consumers. The leaflets PRed how important it is to fit correct spectacles and that an eye examination by an ophthalmologist is indispensable for eye care. They also had instructions as to daily use and care of spectacles.

55 optical retailers including some of our members institute a suit against the discount store in 1977

They appealed to the court that it is imposture to consumers to advertise a 50% discount off the price which is in fact a 50% discount off their own price of their own product. The suit absorbed much attention of the public as well as of the whole optical industry.

"Recognized optical stores and opticians" system starts in 1977

The All Japan Optical Commercial and Industrial Federation (the top organization consisting of five independent associations which represent five fields of the optical industry) made a final decision to adopt a "recognized optical stores and opticians" system. This is the system by which the All Japan Optical Commercial and Industrial Federation gives formal recognition to those stores and opticians that are up to a certain standard. This was a step to prepare ourselves for the coming law governing opticians.

The first official meeting is held with the
Osaka Ophthalmologists Association in 1977

The meeting was quite successful and it was agreed by both parties that such meetings should be held regularly four times a year in order to exchange opinions.

THE PRESENT SITUATION OF OUR OPTICAL
PROFESSION AND ITS PROBLEMS

Together with Japan's economic revival, our optical retail business has been growing steadily. It has attained a high growth rate of 20% every year, supported by the increase in the demand.

In 1976, spectacle wearers in our country reached 35 million, optical companies 20,000, and the business amounted to 350 billion yen.

In the early seventies, however, various problems emerged: many moved into our profession from other fields; many discount stores were opened; in 1974, a quality indication became obligatory for sunglasses to protect consumers; in 1976, consumers raised a question as to our business methods; a suit was raised against a discount store in 1977; the Japan Ophthalmologists Association requested opticians to refrain from doing eye examinations, etc. Let us explain major points of our profession and the future way we are going to take.

Discount stores and our counter-measures

50% discount stores appeared nationwide around 1970, only to be frowned on by reasonable optical retailers. Discount stores adopt a small-profit and quick-returns policy and they don't care about correct adjustment nor after-care. Those who had bought cheap spectacles at discount stores complained about their defective spectacles. Consumers requested us to indicate where they could buy reliable spectacles. Every trade has price competition and even 50% discount is not rare in various sales. But it should not be allowed for spectacles and optical lenses which are medical goods.

In 1977, fifty five optical retailers raised a suit at Tokyo Local Court against a discount store that their advertisement of 50% discount violates the law prohibiting an unfair competition. In Osaka, too, the appeal was made to the Fair Trade Committee to stop the unreasonable 50% discount advertisement. The suit created a nationwide sensation and newspaper,

radio, T.V. and journals commented on the suit. The public showed a great concern about spectacles that year. In the first hearing, the discount store emphasized that they were selling at half the market prices and the advertisement of 50% discount was not fraudulent. They insisted that the wide margin of profit allowed for optical retailers forced up the price unreasonably, thus preventing a customer from buying new spectacles. They were trying to get rid of the restraint of a customer by a discount. They maintained that 500,000 out of 3,000,000 customers in Tokyo supported them and that the suit interrupted the conduct of their business. The fact was that due to the lack of after-care on the part of discount stores only 5% of those who had bought spectacles at a discount store re-visited the same discount store. The case has not yet been decided by the court, but it urged us to reconsider our policy for the benefit of the public.

In 1975 the leaders of the optical retail business began to consider instituting a self-control, namely, an introduction of a "recognized optical stores and opticians" system. In the early '70s, so-called "outsiders", such as discount stores and those who came into the optical retail business from other fields caused trouble with consumers and we felt it our duty to inform customers of "stores where spectacles are fitted correctly".

This system is for the members of the associations under the All Japan Optical Commercial and Industrial Federation. The Federation recognizes opticians who satisfy one of the following:

1. Those who finished the 4th educational course by the Japan Optical Technique Promotional Association and have had experience of more than three years
2. Those graduates from the Tokyo and Osaka Optical Schools with experience of more than one year
3. Those who have a qualification equal to or higher than the one set by the Federation and have had experience of more than seven years
4. Those who pass a qualification test by the Federation.

Optical stores with the above-recognized opticians apply for recognition to the Federation, stating the arrangement of their stores and equipment, the number and the name of the equipment they have, and the registration number under the Pharmaceutical Law; then they are recognized by the Federation. This system is the first step taken by the profession in anticipation of the law governing opticians.

Educational organizations for opticians

Since 1955, it had been discussed among the leaders of the profession that a nationwide educational organization should be established.

In 1967, the Japan Optical Technique Promotional Association was founded for this purpose. Educational courses held nationwide by this association were backed by the Ministry of Health & Welfare and lecturers were leading ophthalmologists of various universities. The first educational course was attended by 15,000 opticians all over Japan and just recently the fourth course has been completed, with the total number of the participants at over 30,000. In our Osaka area, the first educational lecture series was held as early as in 1949 and since then many series had been held with more and more attendants from nearby prefectures.

In 1950, the Osaka Eye Health Association was founded under the auspices of the Osaka Prefecture and the Osaka Ophthalmologists Association, which sponsored the educational lectures in Osaka. Later, the "good optical shops" system was introduced where those stores which were up to a certain level were appointed as good optical shops by the Osaka Eye Health Association. Examinations were given to the attendants when the educational series were finished to confirm that the contents of the lectures were fully understood. Those who passed the examinations were given the title "Gankyoshi" (which means qualified opticians) and they later gathered to set up the Japan Opticians Association which developed into the Japan Optical Technicians Association, a corporation authorized by the Ministry of Health & Welfare. The Japan Optical Technicians Association is now a nationwide organization with 1,725 members.

In 1968, two optical schools opened in Tokyo and in Osaka and a systematic optical education was realized under the appropriate curriculum. All concerned have been making efforts to establish a 4-year university course. In 1977, these two schools were recognized as professional schools by the Ministry of Education.

Interchange with foreign countries

In 1962, the Japan Optometric and Optical Association (the nationwide organization of prefectural optical retailers associations) joined the International Optometric and Optical League and stepped forward to arrange interchanges with world optometry. President, Mr. Y. Horiuchi, served as a member of

the Finance Committee, and Mr. F. Morie as a member of the Future Planning Committee of the League. In 1977, we also had an interchange with the American Optometric Association and attended the first Pacific Congress held in Hawaii. Some 30 Japanese delegates were invited, including President, Mr. Y. Horiuchi, and Vice-president, Mr. Y. Fukuda, of the Japan Optometric and Optical Association.

For the future of the profession

What should we do now? Every member is well aware that our aim is to serve the cause of public eye care through our practice. Now is the time to call this aim to mind again and to consider modestly what we should do from now on to fulfill the aim. We may face many difficulties and often have to be patient. In difficulties we should be united, in order to overcome them. We should not insist on our own interests, but stand together with a spirit of tolerance and harmony. It's a well known fact in history that the weaker the unity is, the easier it gets corroded from inside and outside, until finally it will be destroyed by a "strong power". We have to bear in mind that unity is strength, especially in our profession, and that without unity no bright future will be expected.

Brighter future of the profession

We expect a brighter future for our profession. When we fulfill our social responsibilities sincerely through our practice, we believe a brighter future will come.

We can imagine that, in future, the profession will be more important, with greater responsibilities, accompanied by a higher reputation in the society. Optical equipment will be highly developed and spectacles themselves will have different functions and qualities. Boundless development of human society will require our profession to pursue multi purposes in order to cope with the diversity of needs in the future society.

Our way with world optometry

We just started our activity as a member of the International Optometric and Optical League. We will co-operate with IOOL to fulfill its aim to aid the

development of optometry in developing countries and to pursue its ultimate goal to serve eye care. We admit that our system shows much need for improvement, as compared with the systems in Western countries and in the process, we will have various problems. We will be able to surmount these problems only by constant study and effort on our part. Through spectacles we should try to widen our international view and make use of that to deepen mutual understanding and friendship with foreign countries.

Lastly, we would like to urge you again to bear in mind that our profession is concerned with medical goods for eye care, and assumes full responsibility for such services. Some people stress the importance of commercialism and pursue only profitable business, still others who are self-flattering, stress their skill. These people surely have no future, nor can they be international opticians. Only steady and constant efforts towards a better tomorrow with lofty ideals can make the profession respected and relied upon by the public. This step we have just taken is a small step forward, but it is a significant step for our future.

"Tribal" cures:

Herbal medicine is currently enjoying much attention by the scientific community as evidenced by the invited lectures delivered by physicians from the Peoples Republic of China at the recent meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The lectures included topics like the ancient treatment of certain meningitis with garlic. With this in mind, my ears perked when a fourth-year optometry student at the University of the North, Republic of South Africa, Moses Ndlela, related a childhood experience. For several years up to the age of eight both Moses and his father suffered from short annual bouts of ocular "infection". On the advice of a wise neighbour a successful cure was found by rubbing the juice of peach tree leaves into the eyes.

The only logical conclusion to this is to state that if you read in the future a new treatment for vernal conjunctivitis has been found in the form of peach extract, you read it here first. (DKP)

Early Indiana organization data:

Five volumes of early ledger records were recently received from the headquarters of the Indiana Optometric

Association. Their variety of entries range from December 10, 1896 to February 15, 1944.

The five entries dated December 10, 1896, are identified as initiation fees of five dollars each for I.M. Rowe (Indianapolis), Ed Shipley (Greencastle), John Wimmer (Indianapolis), W.E. Huston (Greenfield), J.H. Arnold (Colombus), Eugene O. Collins (Franklin), G.M.C. Bartmess (Clinton), and Chas. W. Conner (Indianapolis). During January, 1897, twenty-seven more paid in their five dollar initiation fees, and six more during February and March. There the treasury seemed to remain fixed until January 1, 1901, when \$1.25 was spent on stamps. The treasurer during this period was I.M. Rowe. On January 29, 1901, some renewal membership fees of \$2.00 each were collected, as were some new-member initiation fees of \$5.00. The beginning name of the organization was the Indiana Optical Society.

These records, written in longhand, are remarkably legible and contain many incidental bits of information, not exactly meaningful but nevertheless fascinating. They are being forwarded to the International Library, Archives, and Museum of Optometry, Inc.

Accurate errors:

The arrival of my copy of the January issue of this newsletter prompted several doubts in my mind as to whether some of the grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors were mine or simply the meticulously precise and deliberate reproduction of errors in quoted copy. In my almost pathetically peripatetic existence in so-called retirement it is not possible for me merely to pull the original documents out of a near-at-hand file drawer and check. I am 2,000 miles from that.

The errors that occur in sentences in paragraphs composed by an editor himself may of course have occurred in his original composition and never have been corrected, or they may be typographical errors which went undetected by the editor in the proofreading. In either case the editor must be blamed, but his job is certainly made more difficult by periodic changes of typists, especially of typists of different cultural style, as I have found upon operating out of successive offices in South Africa, Canada, Indiana, and Puerto Rico. It is not merely that some typists have difficulty differentiating my longhand n's and r's, but that some rely on Websters, others on Oxfords, and others on special manuals of less renown for their references.

There are even indoctrinated differences, especially of punctuation, correlated with the age of the typist,

if only because different primers were used in different decades. I have a notion, for example, that I can judge whether a speaker is over or under 50 years of age by his placement of the accent in Caribbean.

What has all this to do with history? Well, it means that to grasp the tenor, calibre, import, and cultural credibility of a statement, paragraph, or a whole article or letter its replication must include every reproduceable nuance identifiable with the writer's era or cultural circumstances. "A thousand and 40 days past" has a semantic connotation quite different from "four score and seven years ago", though arithmetic equivalents. The errors in Shakespeare are priceless gems which would fail today's eighth grader, and I suppose, vice versa.

So during these months in which neither Doug Penisten nor I may be so firmly planted as to enable one of us to eliminate completely the incorrect errors and to preserve the correct ones through the several copying steps of the redaction process, please read slowly to allow for the fact that some of the apparent errors are correct and can therefore enrich your appreciation of optometric history. (HWH)

New Journal: OPTHALMIC AND PHYSIOLOGICAL OPTICS:

As clearly indicated by the title, a new journal will soon begin publication three times a year in the United Kingdom. An article in The Ophthalmic Optician (Vol. 20, No. 21, October 25, 1980) details the format of the new journal which will replace the well known British Journal of Physiological Optics. Since the history of a journal is often a confusing problem to the researcher, I found the short, but complete, summary of the history of the BJPO very helpful.

The intent of the new journal is not only to continue the excellent articles specific to academic interests, but also to present articles more applicable to the practicing optometrist. As stated by the author of the article, W.N. Chairman, Department of Ophthalmic Optica, UMIST, "The promise of this new publishing venture, whose original material will complement the more tutorial and political articles of The Ophthalmic Optician, is a bright one".

H. W Hofstetter
D.K. Penisten, Editors