Because the same material is taught in these courses in both schools, the content varies little. The difference comes not with content, but rather with the relation to overall curriculum. Optometry deals with the science of vision; medicine deals with the science of preserving health. The medical student learns of the eye as it relates to the entire human system; the optometry student learns of the entire human system as it relates to the eye as the means of vision.

The optometry school curriculum is concerned solely with the eye, approached from the perspective of the visual system. All subject-matter relevant to the eye has its place within the optometry school curriculum. The optometry student considers the eye as an anatomical structure, as a topic of pathology, as a physiological mechanism, as an organ of the human system, and as the vehicle which endows the human being with the capacity of vision.

The medical school curiculum is oriented toward detection of bodily disorders and their manifestations in all parts of the body including the eye, rather than concentration on abnormalities of the eye itself. Rarely does the formal class instruction on subject-matter on the eye exceed fifteen class hours in medical school curriculum.

The optometry student in his first year studies general human anatomy, anatomy of the eye and surrounding structures, general physiology and physiology of mammals. During his second year, classes include the formation and functions of the eye, introductory pathology, plus manifestations of disease and pharmacology as influences on disease and body function—especially as they relate to the eye and vision.

The third year optometry student is instructed in ocular diseases and their detection, symptoms and signs of ocular disease including external and internal examination of the eye. Further study encompasses systematic study and classification of ocular diseases and their differentiation.

Class room instruction on anatomy and pathology is augmented by weekly laboratory participation. In the fourth year of optometry school the student applies in a supervised clinical situation his class room and laboratory theory learned in the preceding three years. Detection and recognition of ocular diseases occupy a prominent place in the student's clinical training. By the time the student completes his fourth year of optometry school he possesses both the training and experience to recognize abnormal conditions of the eye.

As with other practitioners who provide service to the public, the optometry school graduate must demonstrate his knowledge and competence to serve the public before he is allowed to practice. The optometry bill for the District of Columbia currently under consideration requires written, oral and practical examinations. The District of Columbia Board examination for optometrists includes anatomy, physiology and pathology, especially as they relate to the eye and vision.

Each of the several States require an examination for licensing to practice and 24 of the States accept passage of a uniform examination given by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry as a substitute for their own examination. The bill for the District of Columbia allows certification by the National Board for the written examination.

A review of the National Board examination reveals some of the subjects in which applicants are expected to be proficient. The section dealing with anatomy of the eye, for example, requires descriptions, functions, blood and nerve supplies of all parts of the eye and surrounding areas. Another section deals with diseases of the eye itself and general diseases which manifest in the eye. Some of the areas covered in the section are knowledge of diseases, congenital defects and anomalies of the eye and ability to differentiate and recognize each.

Because 24 states accept the National Board Examination passage, graduates from all the schools of optometry take the examination. Therefore, the areas of information covered in the examination are the areas of instruction taught at all optometry schools and colleges.

A topical outline made from a National Board Examination follows. The areas covered in the outline are designed to be very specific and exacting. The practice of optometry is very specific and exacting. Only those individuals who successfully complete such an examination can be entrusted to practice optometry in the Dis-