

and Gesell Institute of Child Development in Connecticut. At Indiana an investigation, under supervision of Dr. Merrill J. Allen, into night vision driving problems is being conducted and at Gesell Institute they are studying the behavioral changes in children resulting from visual training therapy.

Dr. Merrill J. Allen's Night Vision Study is reported to have fomented a considerable amount of the current national attention focused on vision problems of night time automobile driving. Due to his study of this problem, Dr. Allen has received national recognition as an authority on the subject of driving vision problems, and was recently appointed to the newly established Public Advisory Panel on Automotive Safety of the United States General Services Administration. As a panelist he will help screen the approximately 60,000 vehicles purchased each year by the Federal Government.

Over the years, as optometry has reached out to form its own boundaries in our society, it has become more and more concerned with the age-old problem of blindness, its causes, prevention and the special care needed by the blind. The early attempts made by the profession and the AOF to tackle this problem brought a frustrating realization that the United States was handicapped with a shortage of qualified vision scientists. The deficit was one of the factors that forged the directions of early AOF endeavors. Before the problem of blindness could be researched, the professions would need researchers. This need brought about the inception of the AOF's fellowship grant program, which has since continued to seek promising young doctors with the hope of providing the means for their emergence as leaders in the science of vision. Some of these grants have led to basic investigation in visual problems and disorders, and all have produced scientists of the order of those which are capable of carrying out original eye research. An early AOF supported effort to investigate one of the diseases of the eye was a grant awarded to Dr. D. B. Ganse of Philadelphia to study a method of early glaucoma detection. Subsequent to this project the AOF awarded the School of Optometry at the University of California a \$1,000 grant to further knowledge of possible methods of early glaucoma detection.

Further, in 1960, the Foundation supported a compilation of optometric articles by Drs. Monroe J. Hirsch and Ralph E. Wick, which included a thorough study of blind and partially-sighted children by Alfred A. Rosenbloom, M.A. and O.D. In his article Dr. Rosenbloom discusses past and present educational methods of teaching the blind and partially-sighted with recommendations for improvements and he also discusses procedures of vision care for those declared legally blind but are partially-sighted. The value of such articles as this is not always entirely intrinsic for oftentimes they lead to further studies by the eye-care professions, but the first step in some cases is the most important one. Another bane of vision which has recently come under the scrutiny of the AOF is diabetes, and its effects on vision. The Foundation has awarded a grant for a pilot study to Massachusetts School of Optometry to determine if there is a more desirable time of day which to refract diabetic patients.

Although not initially supported by AOF funds, but in part by Federal funds, a most incisive and rigorous search into the causes of blindness and partial-sightedness was recently completed by Robert H. Peckham, Ph. D., now a resident Professor at the Southern College of Optometry. Based on over thirty years of research experience, Dr. Peckham's report, published in October, 1966, revealed some important concepts in eye research, vision rehabilitation, and blindness prevention, such as development of peripheral vision in lieu of central fixation when macular vision has been impaired or destroyed; detection with an improved electroretinography of the early symptoms of visual disability before any failure is detectable with routine tests; a study of the effects of drug intoxication on vision; a correlated study of electroretinogram and cortical responses and the measurement of retinal responses to lowered contrast instead of black and white test targets. This report is leading to important new fields of visual research and rehabilitation.

In addition to the Special Grants, the American Optometric Foundation has provided twenty-five Fellowship Grants out of which has come many research projects concerned with early recognition of blinding eye diseases and the causative agents of visual disorders. A few titles of these projects are as follows:

"Does the anomalous projector have a single point of view of the world?"

"Eccentric fixation and its relationship to anomalous correspondence."

"Investigating the critical determination of the areas of correspondence throughout retinae."