

neurologists, general surgeons and internal medicine specialists. As the referring agency, the Southern College of Optometry received reports from these various health practitioners to the point that the far majority did possess and were treated for pathology of some nature.

Visual disorders other than those that are normally thought of as pathologically induced are far more common than one might imagine. Whereas patients with a functional visual disorder may be able to respond to the sensation of light and thereby not be classified as blind, in many instances are severely crippled in their visual environment. In 1966, 571 patients were seen for visual and developmental training at the College. Two hundred forty-eight patients were accepted for reading development and there were 300 developmental vision analyses made. Over 85% of this portion of the clinic patient load is made up of children.

Science courses taught in the optometric curriculum at Southern College which specifically form a base for the proper handling of the above mentioned patients consist of over 17 quarter hours of physiological optics including electrophysiology, 17 quarter hours of pathology, consisting of general and ocular pathology. All of the basic science courses form a foundation for the clinical instruction. In all, over 4,000 instructional clock hours are consumed in the optometric curriculum.

In an article in "The Optometric Weekly," Henry Hofstetter, Ph. D., measured the AOF's role in the advancement of optometric research when he wrote, and I quote, "The AOF has not been able to compete in size with other rapidly expanding sources of support for research and development; but this circumstance has given rise to an even more important opportunity, that of providing 'seed' or 'starter' grants for projects and persons not yet well enough established to command major support. Such grants, though small, are the hardest to obtain from outside sources. Further, outside agencies are less able to judge the potential and merits of embryonic ideas and budding vision scientists. The AOF with the help of its talented Research Advisory Council, can effectively, do just that, providing however, that the funds are available."

It is my opinion as Chairman of the Advisory Research Council to the American Optometric Foundation that we would not like to see this legislation considered in a positive manner unless the inclusion of optometry were so considered.

ATTACHMENT No. 1

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY RESEARCH COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC FOUNDATION

Charles A. Abel, B.S., O.D., Dean of Los Angeles College of Optometry; Memberships: Past President of Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry; Past Board of Directors of Garrick Welfare Clinic; Co-Chairman Assistant to Graduate Committee, California Optometric Association.

William R. Baldwin, B.S., M.S., O.D., Ph.D., Dean of Pacific University College of Optometry; Memberships: Chairman of the American Optometric Association's Committee of Research; Past Chairman of American Optometric Association's Academic Facilities Committee; Chairman of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry's Educational Policy Committee.

Lawrence Fitch, A.B., O.D., President of Pennsylvania College of Optometry; Memberships: Executive Council and Past President of American Academy of Optometry; Director of Pennsylvania Optometric Association; Council on Optometric Education of the American Optometric Association, past member; Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; Eastern Association of Deans; American Higher Education Association.

William Greenspon, O.D., Civilian Optometry Consultant to the Surgeon General, U.S. Navy; Memberships: Optometric Extension Program; American Optometric Association; West Virginia Optometric Association; Past Director, AOA Department of National Affairs; Past Chairman, AOA Committee on Legislation; Past President, West Virginia Optometric Association; Past President, Southeastern Congress of Optometry; Past President, International Association of Boards of Examiners in Optometry; Member, National Commission on Accrediting.

Frederick W. Hebbard, B.S., M.S., Ph.D., Director of the School of Optometry,