

of practicing optometrists." In part the adoption of this objective reflected not only the need resulting from attrition and population growth but also the need created by increasing numbers of optometrically trained individuals electing to pursue careers in vision research in industrial, in military and governmental research laboratories, in teaching, primarily in optometry schools, in administrative activities, and as optometric technologists.

Programs for recruitment of qualified students were instituted which soon resulted in full enrollments in all of the schools of optometry, but it was evident from the beginning that this alone would not be sufficient to carry out the objective. The existing schools, even by increasing their enrollments to maximum capacity, would not be able to provide the number of graduates that every analysis indicated would be needed in the near future. Therefore, it was necessary to work toward the establishment of additional schools to meet these needs.

In 1964, a committee to investigate locations for new schools of optometry was appointed, and in 1965 the Committee on New Academic Facilities was established as a standing committee of AOA. I am chairman of the committee whose function is to aid and encourage the establishment of new optometry schools.

Analysis of the projected needs for additional graduates in relation to realistic institutional enrollments has indicated that approximately ten new schools of optometry will be required within the next decade. Because the high cost of professional education and training would be even higher if new schools of optometry had to include the facilities and faculty necessary to provide instruction in the basic sciences that are a part of optometric education, and for many other reasons related to quality and diversity of the educational program, the committee has adopted the position that all new schools should be within state supported universities. An important consideration is that of providing the environment and facilities for the research activities important to a strong academic program, and for the development of graduate programs for the training of optometric educators and vision researchers.

The creation of a new professional school is a lengthy and often uncertain process. In spite of the excellent Federal support offered by the Health Professions Educational Assistance Act which provides up to two thirds of the construction costs for new schools plus annual basic improvement grants, scholarships, loans, and other benefits, and which therefore makes a new school of optometry at least economically feasible for any university, no new schools have yet come into being. Our committee is presently working with optometric representatives, university officials, and legislators in more than 10 states where interest and support for a new school has been shown. We are confident that the much needed new institutions will be developed in the near future.

At present six colleges and universities in the United States offer advanced study programs designed to accommodate graduates of regular optometry curricula who wish to pursue specialized study leading to graduate degrees. These programs serve not only to meet the further academic interests of individual students but also to qualify graduates for college teaching, research careers, and specialized clinical and administrative assignments. At Indiana University, I am chairman of the graduate school Committee for Physiological Optics. To quote from the Indiana University Bulletin describing this program:

"The graduate program in physiological optics is intended to advance the knowledge in sciences that relate to vision and seeing, collectively referred to as physiological optics, and is designed primarily for graduates of optometry curricula wishing to prepare themselves for teaching and research in the field of vision. The principal career opportunities for recipients of graduate degrees in physiological optics are in optometry schools, visual research centers, the ophthalmic industry, and specialized optometric practice. Administered entirely by the Graduate School, the graduate program in physiological optics is offered in cooperation with the faculty of the Division of Optometry." This program leads to the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Physiological Optics. Since 1962 our program has produced twenty M.S.'s and six Ph.D.'s, nearly all of whom are now pursuing careers in optometric education or in vision research.

Although the program is designed primarily for graduates of optometry curricula, it is not limited to such graduates, and indeed the Administrative Committee itself is interdisciplinary in makeup, including representatives from optometry, psychology, and anatomy and physiology. Ph.D. candidates are required to complete two nondepartmental minors and in recent years those offered have included mathematics, astronomy, biochemistry, physiology and psychology. The range of research topics carried out by graduate students and by faculties is large and covers virtually every facet of vision research. Faculty research has