

LETTERS

Dear Maurice,

May I congratulate you on the new format of the Journal, and especially thank you for the March issue. The article on contact lens polymers and solutions by Dr. Inns was especially valuable. The editorial on Primary Health Discipline and the Part III report on the Trust Fund were most valuable. Thank you for the time and effort and expertise you put into our Journal.

Today my wife and I leave for Waterloo to attend the graduation exercise when my son Ross graduates. He is to join me August 1st, the 60th anniversary of the founding of the office by Harry S. Nowlan.

Yours sincerely,
H.W. Moore, O.D.

Editor's Note:

As most optometrists are aware, Harry Nowlan was one of Canada's pioneer optometrists who devoted much of his life to the advancement of the profession. Born in 1887, he gravitated towards optometry via watch-making in Toronto and Winnipeg where he became the head of the watch-making department at Birks Jewellers. He became interested in dispensing and studied optometry at night until finally he began his own practice in 1920.

Dr. Nowlan was a fine optometrist, a good public speaker and was devoted to his profession, participating in community and association work including his service as president of the Manitoba Optometric Society. In

1947 he was elected to the Council of the Canadian Association of Optometrists, became Vice-President in 1948 and President in 1951 when CAO's Congress was held in his home city of Winnipeg.

As Director of the Professional Advancement program, Harry Nowlan was devoted to the "fee for service" philosophy and worked hard to see it become a reality. In 1967 he was awarded an Honourary Membership in the Canadian Association of Optometrists in recognition of his many years of service to optometry. Dr. Nowlan passed away in 1977.

Dear Dr. Belanger:

I would like to congratulate Dr. Inns on his excellent article which leads the way through a maze of soft contact lenses and related solutions. (Vol. 42 #1).

During my short career as an optometrist I have never seen a clearer, more comprehensive, up-to-date article on the subject.

However, I must point out a few small errors. Dr. Inns neglected to include 0.005% chlorhexidine as a preservative in both Burton-Parsons' "Normol" and "Flexsol" and Barnes-Hinds' "Soft Lens Storage and Rinsing Solution".

He also contradicted himself with regards to B.P.'s "Flex-Care System". In Table 2 he mentions that the enzymatic cleaners are said to be compatible with the system whereas in Table 3 one is told explicitly NOT to use the enzymatic cleaner with "Flex-Care".

Other than these small mistakes, it is a terrific article of which Dr. Inns can be extremely proud and I'm sure it will be a boon to many practitioners.

Sincerely,

Earl A. Lautenschlager, O.D.

CONTACT LENS PIONEER CELEBRATES 75TH

Consul Wilhelm Peter Sohnges, a NERF* member and contact lens pioneer, celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday, February 22.

He was born in 1905 in Krefeld, West Germany. After passing the examination for optical master in 1930, he founded his first optical enterprise in 1931, followed by the foundation of three subsidiaries in Berlin one year later.

Research activities in the field of the scleral contact lens, having been interrupted during the Second World War, were resumed at the end of the war and in 1950 the retail outlet, Sohnges Optik Wilhelm P. Sohnges, was incorporated with the trade register in Munich. One year later, he met Frank Dickinson, optometrist of the United Kingdom, and Prof. John Neill, of the U.S.,

and this meeting had decisive importance for the further development of the contact lens. The three men established the International Society of Contact Lens Specialists in 1954, the first president of which, Wilhelm P. Sohnges, is still the chairman.

He formed the Deutsche Contact Linsen GmbH in Munich in 1956 and was awarded a doctorate of ocular science by the Illinois College of Optometry in 1957. Several awards followed during the next years—the Frederick William Herschel Medal in gold in 1959, the Distinguished Service Cross of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Mercurio d'Oro of Italy in 1970, the Moracan Order of the Federal State of Bavaria in 1974.

*National Eye Research Foundation