



EDITORIAL

Furthering Trust Fund Objectives

The Main objective of the Optometric Trust Fund is the furthering of optometric education. This can be achieved in many ways of which the most important is financial contributions. This becomes seed money, so to speak, and is a manifestation of the profession's interest and good will.

Any educational institution at the professional level requires many facilities. Foremost must be a well informed faculty. Running a close second, one must list the library. It is a simple matter given adequate funding to keep a library current, but research requires access to the past and the past is for the most part consigned to journals rather than to text books.

Collections of professional journals are therefore both invaluable and frequently irreplaceable items for any institution hoping to develop research programs or to encourage students to investigate specific projects.

The editor is of the opinion - and he may be excused for his bias - that optometric journals and others pertinent to optometric education have accumulated in many optometric offices. These usually will be destroyed or disposed of for lack of adequate storage facilities. It is inconceivable that we allow these ac-

cumulations of old journals to be destroyed given the established need for them. They must be conserved and some way must be found to store them safely pending the founding of a new Western School of Optometry. Whether the storage is in the basement of some devoted practitioner, a local municipal library, a local community college or even a commercial storage company, a storage facility must be found and practitioners encouraged to forward these collections to a central point for classifying and boxing until the new school begins operation. Perhaps some arrangement could be made with the University of Calgary to accept these journals pending a final decision on the school, at which time it could relinquish the collections should Calgary not accept the option to institute a school of optometry.

Similarly, outdated text books have more than a historical value as they contain information and data not always found in more modern volumes. These too should find a place in the library of any new school of optometry. Even if duplicate collections were to result from the above activities they would have immense value in optometry schools in developing countries.

On page 81 of the June CJO issue a

short news item indicated how initiative can provide unexpected sources of small contributions of moneys to the trust fund. Repeated country wide projects like these represent significant amounts. But there are other methods to provide funds and painless ones at that, the proceeds to be garnered from the melting down of old damaged or discarded metal frames for example. With the price of gold at the present level several thousands of dollars across the country are begging to be salvaged and made to serve a useful purpose.

And what more effective way of collection than an "old gold barrell" at our provincial meetings where registrants could drop their old metal frames. The refining of larger quantities would be more readily acceptable to a refinery than individual consignments.

Another way of contribution is rather than restore the gold leaf lettering in windows - very costly at today's price of gold - to remove it completely and donate the scrapings to the fund. This gold leaf although not pure gold has a high concentration of the metal and would represent a significant amount.

Pennies make dollars and dollars make millions - let each of us contribute his few pennies!

G.M.B.

NEW LENS COMBATS

EYE DEFECT

Blue-tinted optical lenses, developed by an Australian optometrist, are being used to help treat an eye defect which causes night blindness and tunnel vision and often leads to blindness. The new lens was developed by professor Joseph Lederer, head of the School of Op-



Professor Joseph Lederer with three of his patients with the new glasses.

tomety at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. The defect is retinitis pigmentosa, an inherited, slowly progressive ailment caused by the formation of clumps of pigment on the retina. The lenses, originally ground from glass used by a British manufacturer for protecting eyes against laser beams, alleviate some of the effects of the defect, in particular extreme discomfort and temporary loss of vision from sunlight glare.