



*CAO President Dr. Jack Huber Presents President-Elect Dr. Hervé Landry with his Gavel and Badge of Office*

## CAO Council Elects New Executive

During the CAO Council meeting in Edmonton October 27-29, Councillors chose their executive members for the year October 1980 to October 1981. Dr. Jack Huber of Regina, Sask. becomes Past-President and Saskatchewan Councillor as former Vice-President, Dr. Hervé Landry of Moncton, New Brunswick assumes the President's position. Former Treasurer, Dr. Reid MacDuff of Gander, Newfoundland

is now Vice-President while Dr. Roland des Groseilliers of Ottawa becomes Treasurer. Dr. Ray Corbin of Edmunston, is the New Brunswick Councillor while Dr. Landry is President and Dr. Bruce Rosner of Winnipeg will represent Manitoba replacing Dr. Roy Brown of Manitoba who leaves CAO as Past-President. Dr. Don Cleal of Lloydminster, also retires from his one year stint representing Saskatchewan during Dr. Huber's presidency. Both Dr. Brown and Dr. Cleal received a hearty vote of appreciation for their dedicated service while on Council.

## EDITORIAL

### Canadian Contact Lens Society

In March 1962, a group of interested contact lens practitioners banded together to form the Canadian Contact Lens Society. It is worthwhile, even at this late date, to list the names of these farsighted individuals: Cedric Passmore of London and John Price of Kitchener, the driving force behind the group, were ably assisted by Mac Rowe of Woodstock, Warren Currie of Hamilton and Gerry Beuglet of Windsor. The society filled a real need but it may have been ahead of its time.

Among the many activities of the group was the preparation of a constitution which is reproduced herein. Since then, progress of the art and science of contact fitting and the level of training at the undergraduate level has been phenomenal, so much so that a revision of the constitution is in order. The basic principles however, continue to remain as valid today as they were seventeen years ago. A second and perhaps more important achievement was the white paper on "contact lenses" prepared for the CAO contact lens committee. Cedric Passmore was the principle author of this report of some 25 to 30 pages.

The society was plagued by many problems but the lack of interest of

practitioners across the country was the greatest because it stunted growth and development of this pioneer body. At the height of its activity the society never exceeded 47 members.

After four years the group voted its dissolution in 1966. Four reasons were given for its decision to dissolve:

- a - inability to attract sufficient membership
- b - lack of enthusiasm by members in preparing papers and reports
- c - the presence of contact lens committees in CAO and the provincial associations
- d - lack of members restricting the pool of practitioners from which successors for the executive could be drawn.

At the time of its dissolution the society turned over its small capital funds in trusteeship to the Board of Examiners in Optometry, to set up a Contact Lens Prize for the graduating student demonstrating the most ability in contact lens work. The prize still exists and will continue to exist as only the interest on the fund's principal is awarded to each recipient.

Recently attempts have been made to re-establish a Canadian Contact Lens Society. Details of the proposal are scarce but a letter of invitation

has been circulated to many Canadian practitioners. It would appear that Josh Josephson of Toronto has assumed the task of organization. We have no knowledge of the names of his co-sponsors.

We cannot but offer encouragement to the sponsors to push along with their project, but sincerely hope that they will call upon the former members for help so that the society will be able to benefit from their experiences and prosper. Greater practitioner interest and more intensive undergraduate training should increase the potential for continued growth and survival of the society.

We also hope that the society will avail itself of the support facilities of the CAO head office, thus providing a fixed base of operations and permanency of records.

The Canadian Journal stands ready to assist the resurrection of the society by allocating space in each issue for the publication of society activities and the publication of papers and reports.

The society should not be considered as a competitor of local groups but more as a co-ordinator and synthesizer for all contact lens activities across the country.

**G.M.B.**