

## EDITORIAL

This is a time of growth and change for orthoptics in Australia. The transfer of management of orthoptic schools from the Orthoptic Board of Australia to government-financed Colleges of Advanced Education has given teaching orthoptists a fascinating but difficult task in planning how best to use the wider resources available. There is a corresponding stir among non-academic orthoptists towards defining their role and the qualifications necessary to fulfil it, and with this, towards reviewing the ideas, traditions and procedures which must be expounded and demonstrated to students who come for clinical training. This is in part stimulated by the increasing opportunities for involvement in community health. Some of these are here described in papers read at the Sydney conference which had as its theme "The Orthoptist's Role in the Community".

To all new developments, members of the College of Ophthalmologists contributed - instigating, advising and assisting.

One member of the College, liked and respected by interstate orthoptists for his work on the Orthoptic Board, is no longer with us. Shane Brown, president of the New South Wales Branch of the Orthoptic Association, writes:

"Dr. Bryan Cooper M.B., B.S. (Sydney), D.O. (London), F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.S., M.A.C.O., died on 8th November after a lengthy illness. His untimely death at the age of 43 is a tragic loss to the world of ophthalmology. He had become one of the leaders of neuro-ophthalmology in Australia. It was said that he always prized his position as neuro-ophthalmologist to Sydney Eye Hospital; it was well known that the Hospital felt honoured to have him on the staff. The New South Wales Branch of the Orthoptic Association is indebted to Dr. Cooper for his contribution to orthoptics in this State. He was honorary treasurer of the Orthoptic Council of New South Wales, later its chairman. He was vitally interested in the education of orthoptists; he began lecturing in 1965 and continued until the first signs of his illness last year. Many of us will long remember those lectures, always informative and witty, certainly never dull. He was a great friend to orthoptics, and will be sadly missed by orthoptists."

We also record with sorrow the death of Margaret Theile (Hamp) a Victorian member of the Orthoptic Association since 1959, of frail physique but of gallant spirit.

Diana Craig