

## Fifty Years of Progress

What is the place of the *ANGLE ORTHODONTIST* in today's world? Either a golden anniversary or a change in editorship would provide an occasion for retrospection and a look ahead, and this seems especially appropriate for such a unique publication as the *ANGLE ORTHODONTIST*.

Fifty years ago this journal was founded by the graduates of Dr. Angle's School of orthodontia just a few months after his death, as an expanded medium of communication and memorial to their teacher.

Those graduates may no longer be active in orthodontic circles, but they cast long shadows that will be a part of the orthodontic scene for many years to come. Angle was a strong personality who demanded strict adherence from his followers, but his approach to student selection carried a built-in self-destruct factor. His reputation and demanding admission standards skewed his selections toward progressive free-thinking clinicians who were driven to pursue excellence in their own way.

It is the Angle spirit and devotion, not the dogma, that have endured.

Robert Strang, Charles Tweed, Cecil Steiner and P. R. Begg are notable but by no means unique examples of such independent types who blazed new trails; from the very beginning these and many other Angle alumni sought and encouraged innovation. Even those who adhered closely to the original Angle philosophy, such as Allan Brodie and George Hahn, stimulated a new generation of progressive iconoclasts.

The Angle Society may have begun with the appearance of a personality cult, but that attitude is long gone. The *ANGLE ORTHODONTIST* has not reported news of the Society for many years, and its pages represent the ultimate in free communication of ideas. Far-sighted planning has created the Angle Orthodontists Research and Education Foundation, which now sponsors publication of this Journal unencumbered by any outside influence.

This is unquestionably the most independent publication in orthodontics. There are no organizational goals to further, no "philosophy" to expound, no financial goals beyond maintaining solvency, and no advertising to distract or invite outside intervention. These pages are open for the reporting of all research related to the clinical concerns of dentofacial orthopedics, regardless of the source.

The freedom enjoyed by the current editor has been enjoyed by an illustrious group of predecessors. At its founding the editorial responsibilities were shared by an editorial board consisting of no less than Frederick B. Noyes, Robert H. W. Strang, and Mrs. Edward H. Angle. That shared responsibility continued for many years, with the addition of such names as Harold Noyes, George Chuck, Allan Brodie, Wendell Wylie and Arthur Lewis.

Wendell Wylie emerged from the editorial board as the first individual editor in 1952, only to be taken out by what proved to be a fatal illness in little more than a year. Morse Newcomb and Arthur Lewis then shared the editorial functions through 1955, and in 1956 Dr. Lewis took over the full responsibility.

That was twenty-five years ago, half the life-span of this publication. His contributions, along with the inestimable unsung efforts of his wife Steenie, can never be fully appreciated by any of us. In a very real sense he has been the embodiment of the *ANGLE ORTHODONTIST*.

That is an illustrious group to follow, and this is an awesome responsibility to assume, but the editor is not the real source of merit in a journal. The true value comes from outside, from the many authors who give so freely of their time and effort to add one more piece of information to augment our knowledge and skills.

The *ANGLE ORTHODONTIST* has reported many such studies in the past fifty years, and your new editor stands ready to carry on. The constraints are few and simple; careful reporting and in-depth interpretation. Progress is made up of a blend of new facts and new ideas, and either will be welcome in these pages as long as it is accompanied by a meaningful measure of the other. With the continued support of progressive authors the *ANGLE ORTHODONTIST* will maintain its position as a primary source of information for concerned clinical orthodontists and supporting teachers and researchers.

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