

Editorials

Annual Meeting of Eastern Associates of Angle Graduates

The value of coordinated comprehensive studies offering opportunity for the observation of the growth and development of the same children for an extended period is now well established. Utilizing and refining this technique the Associated Foundations of the Laboratory of Anatomy, Western Reserve University have contributed handsomely to the present recognition of this method of study.

The Developmental Health Inquiry was initiated by Dr. T. Wingate Todd through the Cleveland Health Council at the Laboratory of Anatomy in 1926 as an objective study of physical constitution in childhood. It was expanded by the Associated Foundations which all based their interpretive studies on the original inquiry into physical constitution, thus transforming that investigation into a comprehensive longitudinal survey of the developmental health of the child in all its aspects from conception to early adult life and pregnancy. Pending the realization of this ambitious program of continuous study, children were enrolled at such ages that five years permitted the entire field to be explored and reasonably covered at the end of ten years.

It quickly became apparent that the face which expresses individuality must be the area on which all physical disciplines might be concentrated to attain the most comprehensive results. This was entrusted to Dr. B. Holly Broadbent who, in collaboration with his colleagues, should map out the general plan of facial study and, through his special skill and experience, design the essential techniques. The cost of this investigation is borne by the Bolton Study through the support of Charles B. Bolton and Mrs. Chester C. Bolton and has contributed well-known and recognized results which have exceeded the highest expectations.

The Orthodontists of America are offered an unusual opportunity to obtain personal acquaintance with the work and findings of the Associated Foundations through the general invitation issued by the Eastern Association of Graduates of the Angle School of Orthodontia to attend its annual meeting Monday and Tuesday, March fifteenth and sixteenth of this year. The program of the meeting is presented by the Foundations of the Depart-

ment of Anatomy, Western Reserve University and will be held in the Anatomical Laboratory. There will be discussion of the normal child and the influence of particular factors responsible for deviations from the normal course of growth and development. Among the essayists are: T. Wingate Todd, B. Holly Broadbent, C. C. Francis, Milton B. Cohen, T. T. Zuck and Dewey Anderson. Their subjects will be presented with attention accorded the orthodontic viewpoint and will include findings of the Bolton Study with respect to normal facial development and the application of the Bolton standards and techniques to clinical orthodontia.

It is our feeling from personal acquaintance with material, methods, and data of these studies that this invitation offers an opportunity which the student of orthodontics can ill afford to miss. The limited space within the anatomical laboratory necessitates that the Eastern Association of Angle Graduates be advised in advance of those anticipating attendance.

The courtesy of the invitation and the generosity of the Foundations and their Staffs is a constructive effort in the development of orthodontics.

H.J.N.

Scientific Criticism and Discussion

Perhaps one of the best tests of a scientific mind is the manner in which criticism is received as well as given. If we consider science essentially a search for truth, then scientific contributions may be regarded as a gradual unfolding of truth. The personality of man in the aggregate does not lend itself very satisfactorily to this approach to knowledge. The fundamental element of competition which is man's inheritance through evolution is very positively influenced by his desire for approbation by his contemporaries rather than by his descendents. The basic urge for social, economic and intellectual security may underlie this impulse. Irrespective of the terms chosen for the motive, the fact remains that much of our so-called scientific knowledge is contributed in the spirit of a race for professional recognition and that the advancement of human knowledge is something of a by-product. If we apply a yardstick of this nature to students, pedagogs, and investigators there are few indeed who qualify as scientists.

Some years ago I was impressed by the statement of one who has produced a large volume of American and European literature. At that time

he was engaged in a study which bore directly upon the work of a contemporary. Speaking with respect to his investigation he said in substance, "If I find him wrong I will publish my results at once; if I find him right I will publish them after he is dead."

We are familiar with undertakings which have gone by the name of scientific that have developed as an effort to discredit the work of another rather than to evaluate its merits. Likewise there is a very human tendency to bind a man to his utterances regardless of the time, circumstances, and period of his development when they were made. While this fact has the advantage of demanding prudence and conservatism before publication it has perhaps an even greater disadvantage of provoking the justification of mistakes. Certainly if there is a greater crime against science than the presentation of an error, it is the obstinate effort to perpetuate it.

Is it possible to divorce this egotistic spirit from scientific study? Of course it is. I have been inspired by a man who practically gave up original investigation to direct the work of others, and his genuine satisfaction in the achievements of his students, staff, and associates is not equaled by their own. These men are rare. The fact that they exist is proof enough that their attitude is possible. The progress made under their direction is evidence that it is practical.

In the past decade we have seen discussions of professional papers in our dental meetings degenerate to complimentary drivel and in many societies they are abandoned. Multitudes of excuses are offered. Some say that time will not permit—yet we all know that the time devoted to professional meetings far exceeds the material of value that is presented. Others murmur that it is not courteous to an essayist to discuss his presentation critically—to this the answer might be given that our professional meetings in name at least still exist for the development and propagation of scientific knowledge rather than the gratification of the ego of the essayist. Nor should the speaker take offence if disagreement develops provided it be evidenced in an impersonal manner. He should be accorded the courtesy of belief that his contribution is an honest effort to advance our knowledge. If this be not so he does not deserve consideration; if it is, he profits above his audience.

In the light of the foregoing *The Angle Orthodontist* considers that contributions submitted for publication are the result of honest endeavor in the development and recording of investigations, and conscientious presentations of belief based upon evidence which the author considers to be sound. They

are published for whatever merit they deserve as scientific contributions. While *The Angle Orthodontist* takes no responsibility for the statements of authors in the interest of its readers it exercises the editorial right to require that these precepts be fulfilled. And finally, it feels obligated in the interest of developing all sides of controversial questions to give voice to critical analyses of material which has been published when such reviews are prepared in the same spirit, are based upon fundamental data and reason and contribute to scientific discussion.

H. J. N.