

EDITORIAL

The Orthoptic Association of Australia went west in 1976 to hold the annual general and scientific meetings in Perth for the first time. There our patron for the year, Dr. C. Wilson, welcomed us warmly and bade us watch new ideas with an open mind. Our president, Megan Lewis with her Western Australian colleagues was likewise welcoming and provided a pleasant time in that sunny city. But readers of papers for publication were few. Lack of suitable material forced us to forego issuing a journal in 1976.

Theme of the 1977 congress was "The Way Ahead" and light on this way was shed by our new patron, Dr. Gillies, with news that the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists will accept Orthoptic Associate Members of the College. For further illumination came exhortations from an academic, Vivienne Gordon of the Lincoln Institute Orthoptic School, and a clinician, Shayne Brown of the Sydney Eye Hospital, and informative papers from guest speakers and others.

Among other contributions have come normative reviews of the performance on binocular tests of young children in three cities, based in part on orthoptic screening for visual defects. These, and a report on orthoptic work in "Far Out" inland Australia foreshadow the theme of next year's meetings — "The Eyes of Three Cultures" — Asiatic, Caucasian, and Aboriginal.

The 1978 Conference of our Orthoptic Association of Australia will be held at the Singapore Hyatt Hotel from May 1 to May 5. (Convenor: Miss Mary Carter, P.O. Box 470, South Yarra, Victoria, 3141) Members registering for this, may if they wish, register at the same time for the Third Meeting of the International Strabismological Association to be held in Kyoto from May 10th to May 12th.

The Fourth International Orthoptic Congress will take place in Berne in 1979, from the 4th to the 6th September inclusive. President of the organisers' committee is Mrs. R. Esser-Leeman (Basle, Switzerland) and the General Secretary is Ursula Altmann, Himmeriweg 8, CH-8052 Zurich.

Diana Craig