

College of Syntonic Optometry Journal

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COLLEGE HISTORY

Historically, the complete systematized utilization of selected light frequencies by optometrists' dates back to the first class taught by Dr. H. Riley Spitler. The class was composed of optometrists in southwestern Ohio, and northern Kentucky. Many of them had previously heard of Dr. Spitler's work and researches and of his application of the principles he had learned in his own practice. The course of instruction began in September, 1930, and was completed late in October of the same year.

During the course the question was many times asked of Dr. Spitler if his technique had a name, and in what manner it should be described to patients. It was then agreed that each member of the class should come prepared with name proposals to the next class meeting. Several were proposed, but the word SYNTONICS, proposed by Dr. Spitler, was voted upon by the class and accepted as a properly descriptive name for the science and art being taught. All agreed to so describe it in the future and to make every effort to restrict its use to those who had completed a proper course of instruction in the system under Dr. Spitler. The word was thus formally adopted on September 26, 1930, as the name of Dr. Spitler's science and art of optometrically applying morphological analysis, nascentization and selected light frequencies to the eyes of patients for the emendation of the visual sense, directly and through the associated and supportive functions thereof.

Having adopted a name for the system it became apparent that a specialized terminology was also needed. The basic name, a combination of two Greek roots meaning "like" or "similar" and "tone" or "frequency rate", was found to be capable of formation into adjectival, adverbial, verbal and other noun forms. The adjective forms are "syntonic", "syntonical", "syntonous"; adverb form, "syntonically"; the verb form "syntonize"; and the noun forms, "syntony", the state of being syntonized, "syntonizer", the instrument used in applying the technique to the patient, and "syntonist", the optometrist who had completed a course of instruction under Dr. Spitler in SYNTONICS. The foregoing forms were presented to the class and were subsequently adopted by it for restricted use to those who had completed the course of instruction as given in the science and art of Syntonics by Dr. Spitler.

The college held its first formal annual meeting January 15, 1933 under the name of the Academy of Optometric Syntonics. On November 1, 1933 the college incorporated in the State of Ohio under the name of the College of Syntonic Optometry.

Syntonics continued to grow and develop under the direction of Dr. Riley Spitler until his death on November 11, 1961. During these years, the Syntonic research material was disseminated through educational courses offered by Dr. Spitler, and through the official college publication, called the Syntonogram, published from 1934 to 1961.