

--that you may know the FACTS

Something about the history of the development of Syntonics from its inception as just an idea, the following is presented:

The writer, the Secretary of your College, since his graduation from Ohio State University and entrance into Optometry in 1920, has been personally and intimately acquainted with Dr. H. Riley Spitler. Living only 23 miles apart and in the same section of the State Optometric organization it was natural for the two of us to see something of each other at the various optometric gatherings, lectures, and so on. In 1923, the writer was elected to a vice presidency of the Ohio State Optometric Association, of which Dr. Spitler was also a vice president, and until 1929, both served as officers of this association in various capacities, - Dr. Spitler becoming President and then Secretary, and the writer following to the Presidency. From 1921 to 1923 Dr. Spitler served as editor of the Journal of the Ohio State Optometric Association. Colleagues on various committees and the connection between the organization and the state board to which Dr. Spitler was appointed, continued the intimate connection up to the present time.

Naturally on the various trips to Columbus and other parts of the state made by the writer accompanying Dr. Spitler, various optometric matters and subjects were discussed. Well do we remember that Dr. Spitler mentioned on numerous occasions that he had become interested in the use of color and light in optometric techniques while he attended a summer course given was discussed in the course and Dr. Spitler began research on his own initiative in these matters. In 1922 Dr. Spitler gave a talk before a meeting of the Ohio Association on the use of colored light for optometric conditions, including cataracts.

At the time of the writer's entrance into active organization work, Dr. Spitler was conducting new experiments on rabbits 1923-24. In about 1925 Dr. Spitler's Physical Therapy course was approved by the Ohio Medical board and was given by him numerous times over a period of years. In this course, the effects of various physical therapies and teachings of Colville and Babbitt were taught. In 1926, word came of a man by the name of Loeb who had an instrument for applying color or light therapy which was being sold to chiropractors and osteopaths. Dr. Spitler came into contact with Loeb and later edited a magazine on light therapy for two and a half years and also taught electro-surgery in Loeb's behalf.

During all this time from 1920, an Optometric approach to or application of the principle now known as Syntonics, had been the subject of frequent conversations between Dr. Spitler and the writer, as well as a matter of research in library and laboratory. In 1927, Dr. Spitler started actual work in developing a dispersion method for light therapy on which we worked until about 1930, employing various methods and mediums. The writer saw the devices at various times in the developmental stages, and was informed of various experiences that took place. He is fully aware that Dr. Spitler is the inventor of this device now marked by Loeb.

Dr. Spitler was a party to a contract with Loeb for developing this device, and the undersigned was present when attorneys advised that this contract had no value, was in fact a phony, and later was told by the attorneys that an attempt to collect on its terms from Loeb had not been successful, Loeb never paid Spitler one cent for the invention under the terms of the contract.

The principles of Syntonics were recognized and conceived in Dr. Spitler's brain, and in no one else's and the experimental and research work was done by him personally with only incidental assistance from others under his own direction.

When sufficient use had demonstrated the effectivity of Syntonics, Dr. Spitler, at the writer's suggestion and insistence, gave the writer permission to interest a group of Optometrists in southwestern Ohio in becoming users of the technique. In order that they might properly do so, a class was formed and sessions were held on Sundays and work day nights, sometimes in Eaton, sometimes in Dayton, sometimes in Cincinnati. These teachings, with only a few changes in the manner of presentation, is now known as the Basic Course.

The name "Syntonics" was not finally decided upon until the class had been formed and met once or twice, and the writer takes pride in the fact that the choice was confirmed by him after consideration of a long list of descriptive names suggested by members of the class.

From that small class of pioneers with their hand-made and assembled instruments, Syntonics has progressed to its present status, without doubt a definitely successful and practical optometric technique.

It is to be expected that imitations of Syntonics or substitutes will be offered to optometrists. One thing in this connection should be recognized, however, and that is the fact that every conceivable form of applying selected frequencies was experimented with and all were rejected for the present form of Syntonics. Had any other form been usable Dr. Spitler and the original Syntonists would have applied it. The reasons for the failures of all the other methods can be demonstrated to you easily enough.

It is also to be expected that Syntonics would be belittled and ridiculed, and that its orator would be maligned and charged with all manner of things Syntonists know better, however, and one by one optometrists who first ridiculed now are becoming Syntonists, which is answer enough.

In connection with the above, particularly claims that Dr. Spitler acquired his knowledge of colored light application just a few years ago, you should know that the college has in its files affidavits from former patients that Dr. Spitler practiced the use of colored light therapy as early as 1910 in the sanatorium of which he was in charge for practically four years.

Thus totters a carefully built bit of propoganda by one with "an ax to grind".

By
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