

BULLETIN

NOTE: This NEWS Section is sent to all Optometrists who have completed Dr. Spittler's Basic Course in Syntonics. Its purpose is to keep you informed of various Syntonic activities and interest you in further contact with other Syntonists through the official organization, the College of Syntonic Optometry.

Having taken the course, when you purchase an instrument or Amblyo-Syntonizer, you are eligible to affiliate with the College. As an affiliate, you would receive this Bulletin as well as the official College monthly publication known as the SYNTONOGRAM. The SYNTONOGRAM contains case reports, technical articles and reports on various research projects supervised or conducted by the College. For further information and application blanks, address the College at Eaton, Ohio, or the Secretary at Dayton, Ohio.

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The Legal Phase of Syntonic Optometry

(Note: It is suggested that you keep this article for ready reference, after you have read it carefully. You may wish to refer to it concerning your Optometric rights)

Away back when Syntonic Optometry was first made available to Optometrists a study of all state laws was made and it was determined that in no way would Syntonics be construed legally as anything but Optometric. This is for the reason that it is purely optical in principle and all Optometric laws permit, or rather constitute, the application of optical principles as being the practice of Optometry.

Consider the definition of Syntonics given in the basic course: "Combining the bringing of the patient into proper light frequency adjustment with refractive optics, both processes being purely optical in principle".

Now consider the definition of Optometry in the various state laws: "..... The employment of any means, except the use of drugs, medicine or surgery, known to the science of optics for the purpose of determining, correcting and prescribing by optical means for conditions existing in the human eye..." OR "... the adapting of optical accessories for the aid thereof...". In as much as optics is the science of light or the so-called photic or visible range of light, and in as much as Syntonics employs only the range known in definition. We use Syntonics as Syntonics as a means (the law says 'any means') for the purpose of determining, correcting and prescribing by means of lenses for any optical condition existing in the human eye... The fact that we find no lenses required in some cases, or perhaps no change in lenses is required after the application of Syntonics does not alter the status legally, since we have other means of determining if lenses are not required.

It is very evident that Syntonics is NOT the use of drugs, medicine or surgery, all of which are prohibited to Optometrists and all of which are the only things specifically prohibited.

Syntonists are urged to be careful in their expressions concerning the application of Syntonics as the use of certain terms in a loose manner can only lead to misunderstanding. It is very easy to state correctly just what you are doing Syntonically.

If you will reread your notes on the basic course you will find that all Syntonic applications are for the aid of vision and supportive function which are optical. Reduced vision is certainly an optical condition which Optometrists are permitted and constituted to determine, correct and prescribe for. Therefore, the use of Syntonics in this respect is fully in line with the language of the law. Some of the state laws prohibit the prescribing of lenses for diseased eyes without the knowledge and consent of the patient unless on order of a physician. Surely, the presence of the patient in your office embodies his consent for your ministrations, so there can be nothing legally untenable in these cases.

In all cases let your patients understand that you are employing a purely optical means to assist you in the determining, correcting and prescribing for their optometric problems. If existing conditions such as headaches, biliousness, opacities, orbital infusion, congestion, etc. disappear while the optometric problem is being solved, that cannot be called the practice of medicine so long as you used no drugs, medicine or surgery.

Naturally physicians resent patients being relieved of bodily symptoms when cared for by optometrists as it relieves physicians of the opportunity to use drugs, medicine and surgery, but the physicians have no legal rights to stand on so long as Optometry limits itself to optical principles, or in other words the changing of visible light by lenses, prisms or optical means. Legally Syntonics is involved in the definition by these words, "... any means other than drugs, medicine or surgery... for the determining, correcting and prescribing...". Syntonics is not applied AFTER the determining, correcting and prescribing are done, but PRIOR and therein lies its importance and its legal standing. Syntonic application is really a part of the examination which may eventually lead to a prescription.

The College is aware of instances where Syntonists have discussed the application of Syntonics with physicians. This is ridiculous because physicians know no more about the optical principles in Syntonics than they do about the optical principles in lenses or prisms, and they know less about their application. Therefore, on what grounds can any physician qualify to state an opinion on the application of Syntonics? Syntonics being optical, is not within the province of medicine in any degree.

The following is a quotation from a nationally known ophthalmologist:

"Optometry has for its highest ideal the conservation of vision. Its training covers the diagnosis of abnormalities and certain remedial measures. If Syntonics falls into that classification, be it a separate service for sick eyes or a distinct modality, I, as an optometrist, would use it provided I observed the necessary safeguards to assure myself that I was giving my patient the best service obtainable for his eyes. The safeguards are briefly: Be certain to eliminate the possibility of an existing or developing glaucoma by taking fields and tension (the optometrist can do this). Be certain that such dyscrasias as nephritis and diabetes do not exist by having some competent and cooperating internist make a careful and thorough examination. If such conditions exist, have them corrected while the eyes are being treated by Syntonics.

"In this manner and with these restrictions, I believe the optometrist may use Syntonics without mental reservation regardless of ambiguous interpretation relative to its professional limitations".

The field of the optometrist lies in refraction and the handling of those functional departures from normal which are definitely within the upper and lower physiologic limitations, so long as his method of

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handling is purely optical by any physical optical means. Obviously, both subjective and objective methods must be used by the optometrist to determine the upper and lower limits so that he may know that he is within his own field. To this end Syntonic optometrists are taught eight criteria for establishing absence of pathosis in addition to those usually taught.

When Optometry was being defined and established legally, lenses and prisms were the only means known for optical application, but who is there to say that other purely optical means will not be discovered or developed from time to time, and they will be proper and legal under the definitions which say "any means". Optometrists should not overlook the fact that lenses or prisms only change the light before entering the eye, thereby being optical. Therefore, anything which changes the light or the visible range of the spectrum known as light, is optical and in the field of the optometrist.

Some state laws specifically authorize the use of INSTRUMENTS... or anything containing lenses, or any device or the purpose or aiding any person to select lenses to be used or worn by such person, OR BY ANY OTHER PERSON. Surely nothing can be plainer than that.

Syntonic Optometrists should think of Syntonics in the same way they do lenses and prisms, as being a purely optical means of changing light before it enters the eye, in order to aid the patient and relieve him of the symptoms of ocular origin which caused him to see optometric assistance. Orthoptic devices are accepted without question as being optional means on the same basis.

This should be the viewpoint with which you supply Syntonic benefits to your patients. With it there should be no misunderstandings or difficulties.

COLLEGE OF SYNTONIC OPTOMETRY