

SYNTOGRAM

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THE FUTURE OF SYNTONIC OPTOMETRY

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If the future can be compared with the past, then we can understand within a certain degree what we will achieve. For more than a quarter of a century Syntonics has withstood the test of time. Not recognized officially and lambasted at every opportunity by those who are not informed and unwilling to investigate. While some have observed remarkable accomplishments, they still stand unmoved.

In my humble opinion we have reached a plateau where a reappraisal of our position is in order. First of all, we should determine our objective. Are we seeking a greater percentage of the practicing optometrists as members, or select control group as we have in the past? Is the future of Syntonic Optometry dependent upon research or by the sheer results of numbers? Are we seeking quality, the cream of the crop, or quantity as represented by the masses? Can we control large groups and keep the practice of Syntonic Optometry within bounds? It is all together likely that the time has arrived when our objective should be established.

At the outset we should agree that what I shall say here must be construed as a basis for discussion in our deliberations and NOT for publication. Here we can call a spade a spade and that does not always result in desirable material for distribution. For many years we have been "gilding the lily" but now I think we should get right down and dig.

Only yesterday a patient said "I cannot understand, considering what you have done for me, why Syntonics is not a by-word in every home in our city – why is there not an organization to shout from the housetops what you have accomplished with this instrument which you call a Syntonizer? I had incidentally, observed his vision improve from 20/100 to 20/40-1. Macular degeneration was the diagnosis by an allied practitioner. The patient had lost one eye and the prognosis was that the remaining eye would most likely deteriorate. He was free to seek additional help. Upon his return to the Ophthalmologist there was much interest as to what had happened. When told something about my procedure, he was in no great hurry to give Syntonics any credit. He was inclined to believe that some particular vitamin was responsible. This failed to impress the patient. While I may have stepped outside of our particular field, I was doing something for a friend and I did not charge for my service. At the same time, I was securing valuable information for the College. I was unable to answer the patient's questions. Oh yes, another question he wanted to know was why more Optometrists do not use Syntonics. That one is always difficult. We talked at some length but of course came to no conclusions.

In addition to some changes in our methods which I shall discuss later, it does seem in order to carefully consider the following factors. Our continued success can only be assured by the inoculation of a given number of straight thinking and sincere optometrists who place the dignity of our profession above all other considerations. We need men who are more concerned with results than financial returns. We need the type who are not imbued with the idea that every patient needs Syntonics. We need men who will reserve Syntonics as something special for a particular situation – an ace in the hole. We need men of dignity and poise. Men who understand that the right to practice Syntonic Optometry should be considered a sacred trust. (The above does not apply to established Syntonists). We need men who will not attempt to give the Basic Course when asked "what does this

do"? Syntonics will reestablish equilibrium of the basic functional and emotional factors of vision. This should be enough in the way of a reply.

While we are giving some thought to our problems, we must sincerely search for the underlying factors which appear to be retarding progress.

Now let us give some thought to the Basic Course written by Dr. Spitler 35 years ago. At that time Optometry was in its infancy and it was necessary to supply the basic information. Now all is changed. The Basic contains much which is now taught in our schools. If re-written it could be given in one day at half the fee. We could change the initial approach to Syntonics. For instance, suppose we had much of the information printed which could be distributed during the first day. At another time, possibly six months later a lecture covering the practical application and a written examination could be given. When the applicant is accepted \$25.00 is collected and the remaining \$25.00 when the examination is taken. Dues for one year are also payable. With our present plan the applicant is given a two day shot in the arm and finds out that all of a sudden he is a full-fledged Syntonist with all rights and privileges even though he has no way of knowing what he is supposed to do with all the information he has just acquired. With this plan he will be seeking information for a period of six months before the final examination. While I have not discussed this with Dr. Spitler or any college members, I am inclined to believe that Dr. Spitler will agree that it is time for some changes. However, what I purpose may not be the best plan. One of the present difficulties is the fact that the student learns that he can do a lot of tricks with filters. This he discusses with others and our troubles begin. The student must be taught that we are interested in Syntonics Optometry and its limitations.

If the Syntonogram is to be continued we may come to the conclusion that it should be confined to paid up members. In fact, I am violently opposed to the sending of our publication to schools and College. Those who come in contact with the contents are not in a receptive mood. It is so violently different from their present thinking that they unconsciously set up a defense against further consideration of our literature. The Syntonogram could be replaced by a monthly letter reserving case reports and papers for those who attend the Annual Assembly. From all indications we will eventually be living in a Myopic world. Its development is a legal crime in all states. If and when we can come up with a technique which reverse this trend, our future will be assured for all time.

Let us go back to the Basic Course as our first objective. If this can be worked out to the satisfaction of all concerned, we should have a waiting list. Applicants simply will not plunk down \$100.00 for what they believe to be a two day lecture. They may be willing to pay \$50.00 in two installments covering a six months period. At any rate it will be something different. Many will say that we have lowered our sights. We are moving in the wrong direction.

To Summarize:

1. Should we continue with a carefully chosen membership?
2. Do you approve of reporting to our own group results of cases similar to the one outlined here?
3. Do you think it is possible to make any changes in the very wonderful Basic Course as presented by Dr. Spitler?
4. Will it be more effective by extending the time between the first approach and the final examination?

5. Do you approve of the publication of research papers which were presented at the Assembly?
6. Should we continue to send the Syntonogram to schools?

In conclusion I need not remind you that Syntonics is a force which will roll on relentlessly. It may not always be under our control if we drift on aimlessly.

Let us chart our course toward a better understanding of our problems and the future of Syntonic Optometry.

Respectfully submitted,

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