The State Committee on Orthoptic Training

A.

Hagedoorn

Amsterdam

The Board has been informed that a State Committee has been installed with the task to advise the Minister on the desirability of introducing the profession of orthoptist in the Netherlands. The State Committee nominated a subcommittee consisting of Mrs. H. J. Flieringa, A. Hagedoorn and G. H. Jonkers. This subcommittee incorporated a number of ophthalmologists, who had shown personal interest in the matter. Together they formed the study circle M(otiliteit) B(inoculair) Z(ien).

The three members of the subcommittee made a preliminary report, which was recently discussed by the State Committee. A report was added, dealing with uniform nomenclature, by R. A. Crone, G. H. Jonkers and Miss C. M. J. Velzeboer on request of the M. B. Z. Committee. Hagedoorn, The State Committee on Orthoptic Training 55

Again the State Committee hesitated to give definite advice to the Minister for several reasons, the most important being lack of sufficient scientific information on which advice could be founded.

Jonkers' meritorious work will be known to all of you. A short time ago an excellent article from the School of Orthoptics in Birmingham was published in the British Journal of Ophthalmology. For several years a TNO strabismus research scheme including orthoptics has been worked out at the Amsterdam University Eye Clinic.

This work appeared to be extremely time-consuming and to make high demands as to criticism and correct observation. The patients have to be followed up for a long period. It should be borne in mind that orthoptic training is only part of the treatment of squint.

The results of orthoptic training at the Amsterdam University Eye Clinic will be reported by Miss Velzeboer (will be published elsewhere).

Orthoptic Training.

By Miss C. M. J. VELZEBOER (Amsterdam).

Manuscript not received.

Discussion.

Jonkers: Miss Velzeboer has investigated her material in an exemplary manner. In so far as it was possible to obtain an insight into her figures in a short time, my attention was drawn to the relatively poor results. It should be borne in mind with regard to the results of orthoptic training that these are mainly dependent on the person who conducts the training. What I mean to say is that if all the circumstances, such as knowledge, apparatus, etc., are the same, the results will be influenced to a high degree by the person who applies orthoptic training.

Psychological analysis of a group of squinting patients always reveals traumatic circumstances in their lives. In some cases one is bound to believe that strabismus might be an expression of a "spastic" mental attitude. It is evident that in these cases local therapy will fail without thorough psychotherapy.