

EDITORIAL

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

The idea of an issue devoted to Dr. A.M. Skeffington took form when Dr. Jim Cox submitted an article to this Journal. It indicated that this year marks the 80th anniversary of Skeffington's graduation from optometry school. We discussed the article and felt that it was appropriate to mark the occasion in some way. I then looked in the indexes of the seven years that this Journal has been in existence, to see the number of times Skeffington was documented. While his work had been cited in a number of articles, it became evident that we had never published an article about the man himself.

I felt that this was an omission that needed to be corrected particularly because this journal is sponsored by the organization to which Skeffington devoted the major part of his life. Further, with each passing year fewer and fewer optometrists truly know who the man was, and the nature and magnitude of the contributions he made to the profession.

We have taken a liberty with this issue. The article by Dr. Cox and the one I wrote have an abstract, key words and documentation. These will serve as a reference for those who wish to read more about Skeffington. The other articles are on a more personal level, and aptly fit the category of essays.

The authors represent a diverse range of optometrists. Dr. Jim Cox, a past president of the Optometric Extension Program (OEP), is the current leading historian on the topic of behavioral/functional optometry. Dr. Nathan Flax is recently retired from a distinguished career in private practice, and was previously Chief of the Vision Therapy Service at the State University of New York, State College of Optometry. For many years he has served as the moderating voice of the Optometric Extension Program, and contributed some of the most lucid and original articles relating to the behavioral/functional vision philosophy and care. Dr. Henry Hofstetter is a retired optometric educator and researcher who spent brilliant careers on the faculties and administrations of several optometric educational institutions. He was awarded the prestigious rank of Rudy Professor Emeritus of Optometry by Indiana University. Dr. Greg Kitchener is the youngest of the group. He is a private practitioner, and is perhaps one of the current strongest advocates of the Skeffington philosophy. Dr. Kitchener serves on the OEP Board of Directors.

There are others who could have given further insights about Dr. Skeffington, but are no longer with us. I would have welcomed articles by Drs. Homer Hendrickson, Tole Greenstein, Gerry Getman and Bob Kraskin.

These optometrists were among the most prominent who continued the work that Skeffington began. And I'm certain that Dr. Elliot Forrest, who uniquely understood and extended Dr. Skeffington's work in the literature and from the speaker's platform, would have enthusiastically accepted my invitation to contribute to this issue.



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