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Honors Award Presentation to Herbert K. Cooper, D.D.S., D.Sc., L.H.D., F.A.C.D.

The first Honors Award of this Association was granted to Robert H. Ivy, M.D., D.D.S., Sc.D., Professor Emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania on May 10, 1963, in Washington, D. C. It is significant that the recipient of our second award is Dr. Ivy's friend and colleague of long standing. Dr. Herbert Cooper, a representative of the dental profession, has been a pioneer and champion of the group or team effort in the management of oro-facial and communicative disorders, a basic philosophy essential to the existence of the American Cleft Palate Association.

Herbert Kurtz Cooper was born on January 2, 1897, in Brownstown, Pennsylvania, a predominantly Pennsylvania Dutch settlement. He attended the West Earl High School, the Franklin and Marshall Academy, and the Franklin and Marshall College. He enrolled in the dental school of the University of Pennsylvania and was awarded his degree in 1919. In 1925, he graduated from the Dewey School of Orthodontia. Doctor Cooper then established his practice in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, which was a stop on the old Conestoga Wagon Trail from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh.

On November 30, 1930, Dr. Herbert Cooper was appointed consultant to the Pennsylvania State Hospital for Crippled Children at Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. This Lancaster County hospital is oriented in orthopedic surgery and serves as part of the graduate training program in orthopedics of the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This appointment served as the beginning of a prodigious task composing a man and his life's work with all the frustrations of a new philosophy. In 1930, he asked the question "Why can't the treatment of maxillo-facial deformities be carried out as any other branch of orthopedics?" He then postulated that there is a field of endeavor existing that may be identified as dento-facial orthopedics, more recently referred to as maxillary orthopedics. The treatment of oro-facial deformities and communicative disorders was at that time a matter of individual specialty practiced by the surgeon, the dentist, and the speech therapist, each working quite independently. Dr. Cooper believed that an integrated team approach in the management of these handicapped individuals might lead to an efficient use of the skills of the disciplines interested in these patients. Many of these handicapped individuals could not, or

Prepared and delivered by Robert L. Harding, M.D., at the 1965 Convention of the American Cleft Palate Association, New York City.



Herbert K. Cooper

would not, avail themselves of the long, expensive programs in habilitation carried out by the specialists working independently.

In 1936, while examining school children at the request of Genevieve Diller, a speech therapist in the Lancaster city schools, Dr. Cooper found two patients with untreated clefts of the palate. In order to offer some service to these patients, he sought help by communicating with and visiting Dr. Jack Fitzgibbons of Holyoke, Massachusetts. These two patients, and other children, with facial deformities requiring dental attention, together with a multi-disciplinary philosophy already founded, led to the establishment in 1938 of the first integrated clinic in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The personnel in that first clinic consisted of Dr. Cooper, Genevieve Diller, M.Ed., a speech therapist, and Pete Gross, a laboratory technician. Harold Westlake, Ph.D., then with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, attended the Clinic once a week to assist in the speech program. Within a short time, Paul Bomberger, D.D.S., assisted the group by taking care of the patients' general dental needs. The Clinic continued to grow and S. June Smith, D.Ed., a psychologist, was then added to the team. The late George Dorrance, M.D., visited the Clinic and offered some assistance in the surgical program. Most of the needs in reparative surgery were eventually satisfied by Drs. Ivy and Curtis. In 1942, and for four years thereafter, the Lancaster Rotary Club sponsored the Clinic as a Club project. In 1946, the Clinic became incorporated with Dr. Herbert Cooper as founder and director. He had thus created one of the first integrated centers for the treatment of oro-facial deformities and communicative disorders in the United States. This philosophy has since permeated Pennsylvania and the nation. Dr. Robert H. Ivy, a pioneer in plastic surgery, has so stated and credited Dr. Cooper in his 1961 article on 'Plan for the Care of Children with Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate'.

After the integration of these interested specialists, it soon became evident that there was not always a unanimity of opinion. The question Dr. Cooper then raised was 'Who is to agree, if doctors disagree?' The answer seemed to be in part, at least, in research. Believing research to be complementary to the clinical effort, Dr. Cooper purchased the first Phillips Image Intensifier five-inch tube, Manufacturers' Serial No. 1. This was the origin of the research and development of the cineradiographic equipment for use as a guide in the treatment of cleft palate patients. Today, the use of this diagnostic x-ray equipment is widespread among the professions. It might also be noted that Dr. Cooper developed one of the first practical electronic speech aids for laryngectomized patients, and this served as a stimulus for the development of other devices to aid these individuals.

Dr. Cooper's determined effort and dedication to a philosophy has finally brought together a cooperative effort of the staff of the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic, the Department of Biology of the Franklin and

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Marshall College, Biometricians in the Department of Mathematics of Millersville State College, and the Research Center at St. Joseph's Hospital in Lancaster, all dedicated to research and service in the field of oro-facial deformities and communicative disorders. Only an individual with dedication to a purpose could fulfill such a goal. Dr. Cooper's dreams converted into practice have brought new life and hope to many handicapped individuals. His pioneering efforts in establishing the multi-disciplinary approach to cleft palate habilitation has been an influence throughout the country as evidenced by the numerous group clinics in the United States dedicated to this purpose. We here today subscribe to and foster that philosophy.

Dr. Cooper is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics, a member of the American Cleft Palate Association, The American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists, the New York Academy of Dentistry, the American Academy of Dental Medicine and other national and local dental societies.

In 1950, he was granted the Benjamin Rush Award of the Pennsylvania Medical Society and the Alumni Award of Merit of the University of Pennsylvania. The following year, the Elks Club cited him for 'Meritorious Service to the Community,' and in 1954, he was honored at Elizabethtown College for 'Outstanding Achievement and Service to Mankind'. In 1956, he was granted the Henry Spenadel Award by the First District Dental Society of New York, another award by Sertoma International, and one by B'nai B'rith for meritorious service. He holds an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from Franklin and Marshall College (1950) and the University of Pennsylvania (1953), and a Doctor of Human Letters from Moravian College (1955). All of these Honors are in recognition of his service to man, particularly handicapped individuals.

Although no longer engaged in clinical practice, he holds the title of Professor of Cleft Palate Therapy at the University of Pennsylvania, Founder and Director of the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic, Director of the Dental Department of the Milton Hershey School, Hershey, Pennsylvania, and a member of the Advisory Board of the Department of Health of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He is the Chief Dental Consultant to the Department of Medicine and Surgery, U.S. Veterans Administration in Washington, a Dental Consultant to Valley Forge Army Hospital, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, and Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington, D. C., as well as lecturer to Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Division of Dentistry. He is a member of the staff of the Lancaster General Hospital, a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Society for Crippled Children and Adults, and the present State Chairman of their Easter Seal appeal. He is Chairman of the Board of Linden Hall Seminary, and a member of the Council on Dental Health of the American Dental Association. All of these represent distinguished appointments.

Dr. Cooper's determination of purpose might be illustrated with a personal note. A number of years ago, while attending a dance in the Maple Grove Ballroom in Lancaster County, his attention was directed towards a tall and stately blond. He did not know her name but confided to a friend that that was the girl he was going to marry. Later that evening, he met the young lady and to her surprise, made the same remark. On June 2, 1920, that same blond, Mercedes Miller, became Mrs. Herbert K. Cooper. Without her assistance, he could not have fulfilled his dreams. During their marriage, she had to witness the sale of their farm and their collection of horses and surreys to help finance the Clinic which Doctor Cooper had established. The Coopers have three children, of which one son is a physician, one son a dentist and a daughter married to a dentist.

Dr. Cooper, on behalf of the American Cleft Palate Association, it gives me great pleasure to present to you this Honors Award, in recognition of your many contributions to cleft palate patients and your dedication to a philosophy that is essential to the existence of this Association.