

Presidential Message

A.S.O. — WHAT'S IN A NAME?

One meaning of *society*, according to the shorter Oxford English Dictionary is "a number of persons associated together by some common interest or purpose and following the same profession", to which could be added another definition from the same source in which society is described "as association with one's fellow men especially in a friendly manner".

In Europe the traditional orthodontic groups, such as the European Orthodontic Society and the British Society for the Study of Orthodontics have been joined recently by the British Association of Orthodontists, while the American *Society* of Orthodontists was re-organised on a truly national basis in 1937 to become the American Association of Orthodontists. Association can be defined as "a body of persons associated for a common purpose and the organisation formed to effect this purpose". There is perhaps something more business like in the description *Association*, than in the term *Society*, and yet Society still fits our present development as a group of fellow men united (in a friendly manner) by a common interest. This has long been our strength and with this good will and understanding our Society will flourish.

It is also to be noted that we are, in common with the B.A.O. and A.A.O., a group of *orthodontists*, or would be orthodontists in keeping with our object which is "the study and advancement of orthodontics and its furtherance as a distinct dental speciality". While the general dental practitioner with an active interest in orthodontics is welcome as an associate member and has all rights and privileges except the vote on federal matters and the opportunity to serve on the Federal Council, it is clear that the major effect of our society is directed to the interests of the full time orthodontist.

With our steady growth the work of the society has greatly increased and members will be appreciative of the sheer volume of effort and output of our Honorary Secretary, Jim Mackie, and Honorary Editor, John Moffatt. It has become necessary to share the task by forming various standing committees and no doubt this has been brought to your attention by the representative of the Federal Council in your State. So that you may be kept more personally informed, a newsletter is in preparation for distribution to all members, and this will supplement the information already available in the Australian Orthodontic Journal.

In particular, a committee has been established to make plans for the 6th Australian Orthodontic Congress which could be held in 1974 in Sydney. At this stage I invite you to submit your ideas and suggestions for the format of this congress which will be considered by the planning committee. You may wish the pattern of our former successful congresses to be repeated or you may have a fresh concept that would enhance our meeting.

You may also be interested to know that a committee has also set up in Brisbane to plan for the 7th Australian Orthodontic Congress and 50th Anniversary of the Australian Society of Orthodontists in 1977.

J.F.R.
