

## History

Organized in 1926 as a study arm of the Rochester Dental Society, the Rochester Dental Study Club was the first open forum for continuing education in the Greater Rochester Area. Initially the club met ten times annually and culminated its sessions with a joint meeting of the Rochester Dental Society. Its format followed that of a study club organized in Detroit to study the most hotly discussed topic of the era- Diagnosis and Treatment of the Pulpless Tooth. Registration fee, including price of the final dinner meeting was six dollars. Later on separate dues were waived for all members of the Rochester Dental Society and an associate membership category was developed for interns, Fellows, Hygienists and Assistants.

In 1960 Rochester Dental Study Club became an associate organization of the Monroe County Dental Society. By that time five nightly sessions on each Tuesday in January had become the standard. Although exact attendance records were not kept, senior members recall that study club registration was always high relative to general attendance at one day meetings. In recent years that attendance approximates 150. Although specific topics varied from year to year, the objective of the group, as specified in Article 2 of the original By-Laws remained the same: "to bring the profession of Dentistry to a higher plane by forming and maintaining study groups through which the individual dentist can increase his knowledge and broaden his views on the various technical and scientific subjects pertaining to the profession." Rochester Dental Dispensary, Eastman Dental Dispensary, and Eastman Dental Center always hosted each annual session.

## Recollections

of 50 Years of  
Rochester Dental Study Club

I was fortunate to be a member of the group that founded Rochester Dental Study Club in 1926.

The classes were small and prominent dentists headed the various classes. The only specialties were Oral Surgery, Orthodontics, and Periodontia. Among the leaders were Dr. Benedict Hert, Dr. Arthur Smith, Dr. James Welsh, Dr. Bradley, Dr. Morsheimer, Sr., Dr. Ralph Voorhees, Dr. Byron Palmer and several others.

Remember, this is before the time of compressed air. We used foot bellows, a chip air syringe and a pig for casting, and for constructing vulcanite partials and dentures.

Our X-Ray machines were bulky and carried an unprotected high tension wire and we stood right next to the X-Ray while taking pictures. Our amalgam was mixed in a mortar and pestle and milled by hand. We made our own novacaine from tablets and boiled distilled water. We used the same injection needles until they were dulled. The fees that our patients paid for prosthetic work then was less than our laboratory bill is today.

We started a Dental Library and I became the librarian. Dental dealers donated many prosthetic instruments, articulators, flask cutting tools etc. to start a course in laboratory prosthetics.

Dr. Bradley headed the Periodontia class before it became as popular a field as it is today. Dr. Morsheimer, Sr. was head of the photography course that I enjoyed. Dr. Arthur Smith headed operative and Dr. Ralph Voorhees headed X-Ray.

Looking back over the past 50 years the young Dentists today have it made. Wouldn't it be nice if you young Dentists 50 years from now would similarly recall all the changes, discoveries and improvements? In order to do so, you should join and continue your membership in the Rochester Dental Study Club.

George B. Joel