

Seven patients selected at random from the group were tested with a pinch meter with and without the splint; the results are listed in Table II.

In a few patients a particularly effective tenodesis developed spontaneously after several weeks of wearing the splint. Without the splint these patients could then grasp very light objects between the thumb and the index and long fingers by extending the wrist. This spontaneous tenodesis effect was observed even in patients who had shown no improvement over a long period of time prior to using the splint.

Ten patients were fitted bilaterally, but five used the splint on the dominant hand only. The other five used both splints, but only for specific activities.

All but one of the twenty-six patients using the splint were able to apply and remove it independently. The splints were worn for as much as twelve hours a day to as little as once or twice a month.

When hand surgery is contemplated, functional bracing with the R.I.C. plastic tenodesis splint develops maximum strength in the functioning muscle groups and prevents contracture of the web space of the thumb and contractures or deformities of the index and long fingers. Preoperative use of the splint also helps the patient to learn the functional pattern for three-jaw-chuck prehension; hence, little training is needed after operation.

#### REFERENCES

1. SABINE, CLARK; SAMMONS, FRED; and MICHELA, B. J.: Report of Development of the RIC Plastic Tenodysis Splint. Arch. Phys. Med. and Rehabil., 40: 513-515, 1959.
2. SNELSON, ROY, and CONRY, JACK: Recent Advancements in Functional Arm Bracing, Correlated with Orthopaedic Surgery of the Severely Paralyzed Upper Extremity, Orthop. and Prosthet. Appl. J., 12: 41-48, 1958.

### FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY FOR P. W. HANICKE FIRM

Fifty years ago P. W. Hanicke came to Kansas City by special invitation from a patient who was being treated in Philadelphia by Dr. Frank D. Dickson. Dr. Dickson also settled in Kansas City. Mr. Hanicke was a pioneer in custom-built orthopedic appliances, whose trademark of quality and efficiency still prevails.

In 1921 Mr. Hanicke brought his nephew, Erich Hanicke, to Kansas City. Erich Hanicke had served his apprenticeship in Dresden, Germany, where P. W. Hanicke also had been trained. Werner Hanicke joined the firm in 1924. Erich's wife, Betty, is also an important member of the firm and is one of seven women Certified Orthotists in the United States. Both Erich and Betty Hanicke have contributed outstanding service to the Association, as well as to their patients and associates in the medical profession.



ERICH HANICKE, C.P.O.