Nussdorf Elected Board President

New officers for the Board of Medical Examiners were installed January 15, 1975. Dr. R. Theodore Nussdorf was elected President; Dr. Gary S. Nye, Vice President; and Dr. Harry A. Oberhelman, Jr. assumes the duties of Secretary-Treasurer.

Dr. Nussdorf is an Orthopaedic Surgeon in Whittier. He also is Assistant Clinical Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of California, Irvine. In 1972, he was appointed to the Board of Medical Examiners and served as Vice President of the Board before being elected President.

Virginia Graduate

He graduated from the University of Virginia where he also completed his orthopaedic training. Dr. Nussdorf is involved in numerous medical associations including the CMA and AMA. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a Fellow of the American Orthopaedic Foot Society. He serves on the Goals and Planning Committee of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the U.S. and the CMA ad hoc committee on acupuncture.

Dr. Nye

Dr. Nye was appointed to the Board in May, 1971. He previously served as Secretary-Treasurer for the Board. He has a private practice in psychiatry in Orinda and is also a psychiatric consultant for Levine Medical Center in Hayward. In 1965, he was awarded his medical degree from the University of Mississippi and served his residency at the Langley Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute in San Francisco. In 1966-67, he was a flight surgeon in Vietnam with the U.S. Army.

Dr. Oberhelman

Dr. Oberhelman was first appointed to the Board in 1970. In 1947, he received his medical degree from the University of Chicago School of Medicine and served his internship and residency at the University of Chicago Clinics. He is currently a professor of surgery at Stanford University and Chief of the Division of General Surgery at the Stanford Hospital. In 1972, Dr. Oberhelman served as Director of the American Board of Surgery.

FDA Issues Warning on Weight Hormones

The Food and Drug Administration announced December 12, 1974 that it intends to require all manufacturers of the hormone HCG (Human Chorionic Gonadotropin) to include the following statement in all labeling and advertising of the hormone:

HCG has not been demonstrated to be effective adjunctive therapy in the treatment of obesity. There is no substantial evidence that it increases weight loss beyond that resulting from caloric restriction, that it causes a more attractive or “normal” distribution of fat, or that it decreases the hunger and discomfort associated with calorie restricted diets.

The FDA is concerned, the announcement states, about the wide-spread and growing use of this hormone in the treatment of obesity throughout the U.S. The FDA's position on use of any drug, according to the December 12 release, is that drugs be given only when there is good evidence of effectiveness. In the case of HCG, the FDA states, “not only is there a lack of evidence of effec-

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FDA Warning

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tiveness, but there is not even a scientifically plausible rationale to explain how it could influence bodily fat distribution and the sense of hunger and discomfort that results from dieting.”

The press release concludes that HCG does have several effective uses and should remain available for physicians to prescribe for certain conditions but the above FDA obesity disclaimer statement must appear in all labeling and advertising for the hormone.

New Examination Recording Method for HAD Applicants

A new examination scoring machine was tested by the Hearing Aid Dispensers Examining Committee in December. Applicants for Hearing Aid Dispensers licenses received their test scores upon completion of the December 4 exam rather than by mail several weeks later.

The quick scoring process is made possible by a new test scanning machine manufactured by the Scan-Tron Corporation of Burlingame. The portable, lightweight optical scanning test scoring machine can scan up to 40 test papers per minute.

Aldo A. Avellino, Jr., Assistant Executive Secretary for the Board, stated that preliminary findings indicate the new scoring technique may reduce examination costs by at least 75 percent by eliminating clerical handling and other conventional test costs.