

## EDITORIAL

At this time of the year there should be, but there never has been, and there is not likely to be for many years to come, a glut of physiotherapists in South Africa.

Why should this situation remain so chronic? One obvious answer being, there is an international shortage of physiotherapists and South Africa is no exception.

One of our greatest difficulties here is the lack of training facilities in the Union. This does not stem from the shortage of potential trainees but the ever serious shortage of teaching personnel.

Why do physiotherapists show little enthusiasm for taking a teaching course?

Firstly, most physiotherapists initially train to become physiotherapists in the true sense of the word, and have no desire to teach others to do the work they themselves enjoy doing.

Secondly, the fact that the majority of physiotherapists are women, and during the years when they are still mentally receptive to learning, many are occupied in wifely duties.

Thirdly, the exacting work that is required of any teacher, such as the hours that are used in correction

of papers, reading for new material and preparation of notes outside the so-called duty time are considered burdensome.

So what then is there in favour of becoming a teacher of Physiotherapy?

The immeasurable satisfaction of seeing at the end of each year, people equipped to do the job, ready and eager to do it, all of whom you helped to reach this stage.

Also on the moral aspect is to be part of the development of responsibilities and humanitarian tributes that belong to a physiotherapist.

There is the financial gain and holidays, so necessary for a teacher.

These are some of the points in favour of teaching.

And now we have the important news of a scholarship which the Transvaal Provincial Administration is prepared to offer to physiotherapists aspiring to teach. A more attractive or fair offer than that which is envisaged could not be possible.

We need physiotherapists, and to have them we must have teachers, if physiotherapy is to survive as a vital service in South Africa.

Think on these lines !

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