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EDITORIAL

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the World Confederation of Physical Therapy held in July, 1957, a letter was read from the American Physical Therapy Association, whose Board of Directors wished to re-affirm the principles discussed in an article by Mrs. H. M. Gault "When in Rome . . .," which appeared in the April, 1957, Journal of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

In this article Mrs. Gault emphasized how important it was for Physiotherapists from abroad to act in accordance with the codes and conventions of the Physiotherapy Societies of the countries in which they chose to work. This is so important in maintaining pleasant relationships between those whose home country it is and those who are virtually guests in the country, be it for a long or short period. Two salient examples of thoughtlessness shown by visiting physiotherapists are the failure to join the Society or Association of the country, and the tendency to stay only as long in one position as suits them, with no consideration for their new colleagues, and thus causing unnecessary disorganisation and work for permanent members of the staff.

As regards joining the Society or Association of that country, it is surely unnecessary to point out all the benefits gained by so doing. These Societies, like yours in South Africa and the Chartered Society in London, concern themselves with professional standards, salaries and working conditions, all of which affect the visiting physiotherapist. Thus it is only just that the newcomer should join such a society immediately on arrival.

South African Physiotherapists are tending to travel abroad more and more; Great Britain, Canada and America being the favourite countries in which to work and to gain further experience. This enthusiasm and interest in work abroad is an admirable thing, but it must not be forgotten that when abroad, one is acting as an unofficial ambassador. The newcomer's behaviour and the impression left behind helps or hinders those countrymen who follow at a later date. Consideration, adaptability and willingness to serve for a reasonable term in any one position will make the visitor welcome in all countries and create a good fellowship between co-workers from abroad and at home.