

EDITORIAL

WHITHER PHYSIOTHERAPY?

The Post-Registration course preceding the 12th National Council meeting held in May 1977 emphasised the change in attitude towards physiotherapy, both from physiotherapists and the medical profession, which has developed over the past decade. Dialogue between the two professions is now on an equal level.

Physiotherapists have the courage of their convictions; they are prepared to speak up when consulted. They are very critical of their own work, its validity and effectiveness; they have developed enquiring minds, are doing research, exploring new techniques and new fields of therapy. They are ruthlessly discarding that which seems to be ineffectual or can be replaced by more efficient and up-to-date treatments. They are sometimes "discovering" old techniques and applying them to new or different conditions and situations; best of all, they have discovered the importance of communication — with each other, patients, other paramedicals, the nursing and medical professions.

Physiotherapy is on the brink of a very exciting era and it is up to each physiotherapist to exploit and explore this. The world is YOUR oyster and it is up to YOU what you make of it. If each and every one of us did just that bit extra, communicated just that bit more of our ability to someone outside our small circle, imparted a small spark of enthusiasm and joy in our profession, we would soon set the world on fire.

A TRIBUTE

Miss Elizabeth Botting has given generously of her time and energy to this Journal for nearly twenty years. Under often difficult and hard pressed circumstances she still managed to produce an attractive, eminently readable and practical magazine that enjoys wide readership. It has been a worthy shop window, allowing a glimpse of what goes on in the Physiotherapy world of South Africa, highlighting outstanding events, expressing constant growth and awareness of patients' needs and relating dialogue with others involved with patients. She can look back on her years of Editorship only with pride and the knowledge of a job well done. Not that it is finished! The present Editorial Board is indebted to her for agreeing to act as Journal Liaison Officer on the National Executive Committee, and in particular for all the trouble she took to travel to Cape Town to hand over "her" Journal and its effects in person! We hope to have a long and happy association with her and to maintain a standard worthy of her.

Mrs. Molly Levy has been Journal Treasurer for an even longer period (longer than she cares to remember she says!) and continued in this capacity when the previous Editorial Board was established, despite increasing responsibility as National Chairman and member of the Executive Committee of W.C.P.T. The healthy financial state of the Journal and the continued support of loyal advertisers is entirely due to her diligence and persuasion. Our heartfelt thanks to her also.

VAN DIE REDAKSIE

WAT HET ONS BEREIK?

Meer as vyftig jaar gelede het twee klein groepies fisioterapeute (in Kaapstad en Johannesburg onderskeidelik) besluit om hulle kragte saam te span ter bevordering van fisioterapie as 'n beroep. Dit was die begin van die Suid-Afrikaanse Fisioterapie Vereniging, wat vandag meer as 1 000 lede sterk is en in 1975 sy Goue Jubileum gevier het.

Ten spyte van probleme soos groot afstande in Suid-Afrika, gebrek aan opleidings-fasiliteite, min en traag professionele erkenning is die stryd manmoedig voort gesit. 'n Sentrale Uitvoerende Komitee is in Johannesburg gevestig en word later die Nasionale Uitvoerende Komitee, belas met roetine sake van belang vir die Vereniging. Takke is gestig in geskikte sentra en bied aan lede die geleentheid om by te dra tot die besigheid van die Vereniging, om verdere en voortdurende opvoeding te ontvang, nuwe tegnieke en tendense te leer ken en ook sosiaal te verkeer.

Elke twee jaar word 'n Nasionale Raadsvergadering belê. Takke stuur afgevaardigdes en besluite rakende alle lede word bespreek en vasgelê. Daar word voortdurend gestreef om bv. salarisse en diensvoorwaardes te verbeter, nuwe werksgeleenthede te skep en professionele erkenning te verkry.

Die eerste opleidingsentrum vir fisioterapeute kom in die laat dertigerjare aan die Universiteit van die Witwatersrand tot stand. Vandag is daar sewe opleidingsentra. Twee bied driejaar diplomakursusse aan, die ander vierjaar graadkorsusse. Onderwysdiplomas, nagraadse diplomakursusse, magister- en doktorsgrade word aangebied, asook korter kursusse ter bevordering van professionele bedrewenheid.

Fisioterapie was die eerste paramediese beroep om 'n eie Beroepsraad onder die vleuels van die Suid-Afrikaanse Geneeskundige en Tandheerkundige Raad te verkry. 'n Stryd om erkenning is uiteindelik bekroon toe verpligte registrasie geproklameer is en sedert Desember 1976 is alle stedelike gebiede as voorgeskrewe verklaar. Dus volgens wet mag slegs fisioterapeute die beroep fisioterapie (soos in die Staatskoerant omskryf) in hierdie gebiede beoefen.

As so 'n klein groepe toegewyde pioniers soveel vir fisioterapie bereik het, hoeveel meer kan bereik word as elkeen van ons skouer aan die wiel sit en ons deel doen!