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EDITORIAL

THE Second Congress of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy is to be held in New York next June. Plans have already been made by the American Physical Therapy Association and the Preliminary Programme looks most interesting. It certainly appears that the excellent standard set by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy at the First World Congress in London in 1953 will be maintained.

The cost of travel to America and general expenses will be very high, and thus the tragedy occurs that because of its financial insecurity our Society seems unable at present to send a representative from this country. The standards of physiotherapy and the training schools in South Africa have been proved without doubt to be equivalent to those anywhere in the world. It is therefore important that if these standards are to be upheld South Africa must be an active member of the World Confederation.

These Congresses are to be held in different countries every three years. They offer a wonder-

ful opportunity for exchange of ideas and methods of treatment and it is imperative that we take advantage of them.

It is relevant at this point to remember that "money talks" and the Society will never be a power, even in its own country, without substantial financial backing. This applies not only to attendance at World Congresses, but also to the execution of plans for development in this country. To take one example, lack of funds prevents our holding a South African Conference this year.

It is absurd that a Society of our standing should be so limited by lack of funds. It is high time that steps were taken to remedy this situation, particularly as our profession is at last gaining full recognition throughout the world. This state of "laissez-faire" must cease. The efforts of each and every individual physiotherapist are needed if we sincerely believe in our profession and its furtherance.