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EDITORIAL

AT the end of April this year the University of the Witwatersrand is staging its University Towns Festival to help raise money for the University Appeals Fund. Some of the entertainments to be enjoyed at this Festival are described elsewhere in the Journal.

This bid to raise funds for the University, funds which are desperately needed for innumerable purposes, prompts one to consider the part the University has played in helping to further physiotherapy.

In 1938 the University started training for a Diploma Course in Massage, Medical Gymnastics and Electro-therapy. In 1943 this changed to a four year degree course in Physiotherapy, and a B.Sc. (Physiotherapy) Rand was granted. The additional first year offering a training in the basic sciences has proved an excellent grounding for the specialised Physiotherapy course. Throughout the training has been under the direction of Chartered Society Teachers, and testimony has shown that the training has become one with as high a standard as anywhere in the world.

Since the inception of the course, to the present time, one hundred and thirty two physiotherapists have graduated. Of these, many have gone overseas, and most of them have returned to give the benefit of their extra experience to South Africa.

Recently, the University agreed to accept male students, and it is hoped it will not be too long before the training of blind persons, teachers and non-Europeans will be undertaken. However, these plans necessitate more staff, more apparatus and more accommodation, which in their turn obviously necessitate the provision of more money.

Within the last year or two the University has sponsored the organisation of several Post-graduate courses for physiotherapists and these have proved a great stimulus to us all. Another one is shortly to be held, and with sufficient support these will be a regular feature of the University's facilities for Post-graduates.

The present physiotherapy students are working hard to raise funds for the Festival, and will be giving a gymnastic display, as well as supervising the presentation of the de Beers' dogs, apart from giving general assistance wherever they may be needed. Many members of our Society, some of them graduates of the University, have already pledged their help, while others have assisted in the raising of funds for the general Appeals Fund. It is hoped that even more will offer their assistance for this University which has done so much for us.