

CORRESPONDENCE

THE EFFECTS OF MEDICAL SCHEMING ON MEDICAL CARE

Madam,

May I draw your attention to an article with the above title by Dr P. D. de Villiers in the SA Medical Journal of the 25 August 1979?

One would like to quote so many passages from this article that it would perhaps be a good idea to request permission to publish the whole of it in "Physiotherapy". Most of that which is written concerning doctors pertains also to physiotherapists in private practice. The only persons who really seem to benefit from medical schemes are the administrators of these schemes, who, though being ostensibly non-profit-making

do not disclose the profits of the administrators or the gains of the sponsors. Private practitioners' requests for increased fees are blamed for the escalating contributions payable to medical schemes. Nobody seems to remember that the medical aid tariff is a preferential one, initially intended to assist those who could not afford medical care. These preferential tariffs have now been extended to the wealthy also, and the practitioner who dares to "contract out" is blamed for fleecing the public. It is time somebody put it clearly in print where the blame for the present state of affairs lies, and Dr de Villiers is to be congratulated on his effort.

Yours faithfully

Miss B. Winter.