

GENERAL

We welcome to South Africa, Miss M. J. Neilson, General Secretary, World Confederation of Physical Therapy. An appreciation of Miss Neilson will be found elsewhere in this Journal. At the same time we extend a welcome to Miss Jennifer Hickling, M.C.S.P., who has come to Pretoria through the initiative of the Northern Transvaal Branch.

Another recent arrival from England is Miss Barbara Cockersole who has joined the staff of the School of Physiotherapy, University of Witwatersrand.

Physiotherapy in South Africa should benefit from these three overseas visitors who each in their different spheres have much to offer us. We hope they will all gain something from us and enjoy their stay with us be it long or short.

Marriages:

Leonie Kling to Neil Porter on December 12th.

Vera Abouchabki to Henrie Jacob.

Rosemary Greenway to Ad Wegner.

Miss Colleen West was married to Mr. Patrick Shuttleworth.

Miss Ethna Miller was married to Dr. Fred Woodrich.

Miss Bernice Katzen was married to Mr. Louie Bloom.

Miss E. Leonard to Mr. Olie.

Miss I. Maritz to Mr. G. Sauerman.

Miss E. R. Segal to Mr. H. W. Trokiss.

Births:

To Maurice and Eleanor Taylor a son in November.

To Uwe and Edda Kröger (née Brunn-Meyer) a daughter on December 2nd.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor, *Physiotherapy*.

Dear Madam,

Dr. Mills and the Provincial Hospitals have a very strong case for the reduction of Physiotherapy salaries to that below the level of the nurses. That is so long as the trend of thought persists that the work done on the Wards by Physiotherapists is, as an adjunct of nursing, more important to that carried out in the Department.

I find more and more of the young Physiotherapists look down on the work done in the Department. They consider they are saving lives on the Wards. Many consider themselves more important either than the Doctors or the Sisters, whatever the Hospital Authorities may think of them!

Has Dr. Mills however, forgotten that the low back pain is still one of the most costly conditions that Industry has in the loss of man hours? Is it not a duty of a Hospital to provide a service for this type of condition?

Are we not more on a par with the professions of Osteopathy and Chiropractics in this particular field, with our Traction, Manipulation and Spinal Corrective Exercises. Two professions who consider themselves on the level of Doctors of Medicine rather than on the level of Nursing.

In the field of Rehabilitation, does not Physiotherapy play a most important part. The Insurance Companies in the U.S.A. realise that it can cut their costs in industry and traumatic injuries, therefore it has their backing.

Surely the Provincial Hospitals must realise the Physiotherapists value to the State in this field.

Finally in the field of Rehabilitation the Orthopaedic mechanic plays a large part. But why cannot a Physiotherapist, ever rise, however long she may stay in the service of the Provincial Hospitals, to the salary level equivalent to the scale of Orthopaedic Manager? Again where our value on the Wards in Tetanus and Pump cases is generally accepted, why cannot a Physiotherapist ever rise to the scale paid to a Principal Laboratory Technician?

Yours sincerely,
BERTRAM G. MOTH.

The Editor,
The South African Journal of Physiotherapy.
Dear Madam,

"What does the Physiotherapy Society do for me? I pay my subscription year in and year out and what do I get for it? And now the subscription has been raised—I think I'll resign!"

How often have these thoughts been uttered by myself and my colleagues. But it is only in the last few months that I have had reason to appreciate the many wonderful advantages of being a member.

The annual council meeting at which all our branches are represented, plus correspondence throughout the year, ensures contact with each individual active member keeping them in touch with modern developments. Our attendance and interest and the part we take in discussions all contribute to strengthen the organization because, for a society to give of its best it must have a receptive membership ready to give of their best as well.

Our Society offers a quarterly journal of a high standard, and contributions are always welcome—let us help one another by sharing our varied experiences through this medium.

The protection of our profession against misuse by "quacks" is a major concern of our Society and the battle for the compulsory registration of physiotherapists is slowly succeeding. This may sound like an old story but the *active* battle continues. The countless hours of work by some of our worthiest members in drawing up memoranda, draft bills, etc., and consulting with government officials is deserving of the highest praise.

How do overseas personalities come to visit South Africa? At whose invitation do they travel those many miles to enlighten us on their particular subjects? Our treasurer manages in some uncanny way to stretch the Society's purse to an unbelievable capacity covering these visits, refresher courses, and a host of other activities, all of which we members find most enjoyable and beneficial.

Few of us feel satisfied with the salaries offered in provincial hospitals—and who is there better able to fight this issue for us than our well-established Society. However, for our part, some constructive suggestions to the Society would, I feel sure, be more effective than our vague moans to none in particular.

There is organization at Society level of voluntary work e.g. geriatrics and paraplegic sport—any offers?!

The minutes of the last council meeting leaves us in no doubt of the amount of work done for instance by sub-committees such as the eight branch committees, the Blind Group, the Private Practitioners Group, all of whom work specifically for us. Through the Society we are represented on various other committees such as Cripple Care, National Council for Women, South African Paraplegic Games, Association, National Council for the Care of the Aged, Avalon Association, Paramedical Association, World Confederation for Physical Therapy.

Without our Society our standard would undoubtedly sink, because it is they who work continuously to maintain the high level at which we find ourselves today. South Africa's acceptance onto the world map in physiotherapy is purely as a result of our staunchest workers. Our strong contingent of 19 delegates to the last World Congress of Physiotherapy is an indication of the enthusiasm of members.

The comparison is often made between subscriptions for membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and that for our Society. One should remember that, whereas the Chartered Society membership list runs into thousands, our Society is a very much smaller group. The subscriptions must, therefore, of necessity, be higher and we should not hesitate to pay up gracefully so that we will go from strength to strength.

Let each of us step forward with contributions and suggestions—giving as well as taking and playing our separate parts in the joint build-up of an even stronger professional group.

Yours sincerely,
"A once apathetic ordinary member."