

LETTERS

The Editor,
Physiotherapy.

*Re Prof. O. S. Heynes' lecture to Southern Transvaal Branch
S.A.S.P.*

Three days after the demonstration I went to pay a visit to the mother at the Queen Victoria Hospital, who demonstrated to physiotherapists, the use of the decompression suit during the end of the first stage of her labour.

The mother, Mrs. G. C. expressed clearly

- (a) that she felt considerable pain, during contractions before being fitted into the suit;
- (b) that she had, at first, an oppressed feeling in the chest when she put decompression into action. (She had never tried decompression before going into labour);
- (c) that she had *no pain* under decompression, but painful contractions as soon as she did not use the decompression;
- (d) that she definitely wants to have the decompression machine if she should have another child. (This was her third child).

A. WENHAM, M.C.S.P.,
Johannesburg. October, 1962.

The Chairman,
The Central Executive Committee,
South African Society of Physiotherapy.

Dear Miss Blair,

Now that my tour of South Africa under the guidance of your committee is completed I would like to thank the members of the committee both for initiating my visit and also organizing the details with so much care and efficiency. I so much appreciate the fact that my work was made easy and am most grateful to have been given the opportunity to see so much of this beautiful and interesting country.

I have received the most generous hospitality wherever I have been and I am much impressed by the interest shown by so many physiotherapists in the technique of P.N.F. and their application in the treatment of patients. I hope they will find them as beneficial and rewarding as I have done ever since I was fortunate enough to learn something of them from Miss Margaret Knott at the California Rehabilitation Centre.

Although I shall need no reminder of a most delightful visit to meet and work with both physiotherapists and patients, I shall always enjoy using my beautiful ostrich handbag and remember the occasion on which I received your gift.

My very best wishes to you all and with many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

M. D. GARDINER.

P.S.—I hope I shall see many of you in Copenhagen or in Britain!

Johannesburg,
October 12th, 1962.

EDITOR,
Physiotherapy.

Chiropractors and the pending Commission of Enquiry.

The very comprehensive memorandum, on the subject of the proposed legislation for the registration of chiropractors is an extremely revealing document, and I am surprised that our Society has not felt it proper to associate itself, publicly, with the views expressed by the Medical Association of South Africa. If the chiropractor is registered, and has a degree of State Protection, then the definition of Manipulative Treatment, as it will be interpreted in law, immediately becomes a question of no little significance to the practising physiotherapist who will still be a Medical Auxilliary. Do we know if massage is to be part of this manipulative treatment or to what extent the chiropractor will be licenced to use electro-medical treatments? I sincerely hope that the contents of the memorandum to which I have referred will be made known to all the members of our Society, and that a serious attempt will be made for suitable persons to give evidence before the Commission of Enquiry which the Government has appointed to investigate this whole question. To wait and see what happens to the Chiropractors Bill, before any action in respect of State Registration for Physiotherapists is taken would seem to me to be procrastinating. As a partner in the wide field of medical practice, with direct representation on the Auxiliaries sub-committee of the S.A. Medical Council, it is surely the moral duty of our Society to associate itself, emphatically, with the views of the Medical Association of South Africa. Over the years, the Society has gained in prestige, and it would seem to me that, to stand aloof, sitting on the fence, while this very significant attempt is being made on behalf of the Chiropractors, is a serious evasion of responsibility which can hardly be calculated to add to this prestige. I should be interested to know the views of other physiotherapists.

Yours faithfully,

G. S. SCHERMBRUCKER.

Cape Town,
18/10/62.

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