

GENERAL**WORLD CONFEDERATION FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY**

The Training of Physical Therapists is published in English, French and now in Spanish. This document has been found very useful by many physical therapists, doctors and international bodies setting up physical therapy services.

Any members who would like to have a copy may obtain one from the W.C.P.T., Tavistock House (South), Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, England.

Summary of Annual Report for 1961

1961 saw change and progress in the affairs of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy. By 1961 the W.C.P.T. had reached a stage in its development which necessitated the appointment of its own secretariat with Miss M. J. Neilson, M.B.E., who for seventeen years had been secretary of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, as the first Secretary General. New offices have been acquired in Eastbury House, Albert Embankment, London, S.E.1, and all physical therapists visiting London will be welcomed there.

The scope and volume of the Confederation's work increased rapidly in the year. Advice was given on the formation and activities of professional associations of physical therapists and on the planning and equipping of physical therapy departments and training schools in various parts of the world.

The Fédération Suisse des Physiothérapeutes was admitted for membership subject to confirmation at the General Meeting 1963.

In the early months of 1961 physical therapists were recruited by the World Confederation, on behalf of the League of Red Cross Societies, to treat Moroccan patients paralysed as a result of using adulterated cooking oil. In conjunction with the Save the Children Fund of Great Britain, the W.C.P.T. found a physical therapist to work in the Children's Pavilion of the Hospital in Fez.

Several physical therapists were recruited to the Aguash Rehabilitation Centre in Cairo to join the team there, consisting of fourteen physical therapists from Denmark, France, Great Britain, Norway, Western Germany and Yugoslavia. A physical therapist from Great Britain (Miss Lois Dyer, one-time of the General Hospital, Johannesburg and former editor of *Physiotherapy Journal* of S.A.S.P.) who had lately returned from Morocco, was appointed jointly by the Egyptian Veterans and War Victims' Association and the World Veterans' Federation as leader of the team.

In July 1962 at the European International Conference on Rehabilitation to be held in King's College, Cambridge, the W.C.P.T. will be responsible for a session on Physical Therapy. A Swedish physical therapist will read a paper on "The Rehabilitation of Forestry Workers with Back Injuries in Sweden" and a British physical therapist will speak on "The Physical Therapist's Role in the Rehabilitation of Patients of all Ages".

The Executive Committee, in submitting this report, records its gratitude both to the Member Organizations and to their individual members who have supported the organization in many ways, such as working on documents and pamphlets prepared by the committee, by representing the Confederation at international meetings in their own countries and reporting thereon, and last but not least, by providing the financial resources which make possible the work of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy.

This report, in full, was submitted by Rudie Agersnap, President on behalf of the Executive Committee, W.C.P.T.

**FOURTH CONGRESS
Copenhagen, 17th to 22nd June, 1963**

The S.A.S.P. Central Executive Committee is investigating the possibilities of arranging reduced Air Fares to Copenhagen for the Congress.

Interested persons are asked to contact the General Secretary, P.O. Box 11151, Johannesburg.

JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL FOR THE CARE OF THE AGED

Mr. A. Rothberg has been elected to represent the S.A.S.P. on the above Council.

COMPULSORY REGISTRATION

The Society's publicity campaign has swung into top gear with the Central and Branch Action's Committee working at high pressure.

Two *News Letters* have been sent to members of the public and encouraging replies have been received from influential people including Members of Parliament and doctors.

Letter to the Editor**RE—FIBROSITIS**

Dear Madam,

While there is at the moment great interest in the attainment of compulsory registration of physiotherapists for the protection of the public, I would like to express an opinion on a subject closely connected with this.

Recently I read in the parliamentary report of a S.A. newspaper that one honourable member felt that many M.P.'s would not have been cured of their fibrositis had it not been for Chiropractors. I do not doubt the truth of this statement, as in my opinion this is a condition for which the medical and physiotherapy professions in South Africa have yet failed to find a cure. In fact, physiotherapists are often required to treat cases with referred pain in the cervical or lumbar region ("fibrositis" or "lumbago") without a diagnosis, i.e. without an indication of the cause of this pain. The result is that the symptomatic treatment so often administered (heat, massage, etc.), does little but keep the patient under the illusion that he or she is receiving treatment, while nature is effecting the cure.

In my experience, many of these patients can be successfully treated by spinal manipulation and traction, properly applied according to the pathology indicated by an accurate diagnosis, and the signs presented by each case.

If physiotherapists in South Africa were trained to carry out these techniques under the guidance of doctors, the honourable M.P.'s could be cured of their "fibrositis" under proper medical care. It is time the S.A.S.P. seriously considered asking an expert in these techniques to visit this country in order to initiate the training.

Yours sincerely,

Brun. Winter, M.C.S.P.

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just being a "physio", but also a "therapist", in fact try to make it a happy combination of "physiotherapist".

I think in our profession the danger of becoming and training mere technicians is even greater than in many other related professions, I would personally even go further and say that a really good therapist will also aim at giving the patient the treatment that has a high professional standard; but that may be debatable.

For the end results it might not matter whether we arrive at a happy solution from one end or the other as long as we give consideration to both.

Any one who has seriously and sincerely tried to apply a more psychological approach to patients will bear me out that this can make our work so much more rewarding and richer.

I wish to place on record my appreciation to Dr. H. Moross, Medical Superintendent, Tara Hospital for his help and permission in the writing of this contribution.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GILLIS, L. S., M.D., D.P.M., 1962. Title: *Human Behaviour in Illness, Psychology and Interpersonal Relationship*. Publisher: Faber and Faber, London.