

EDITORIAL

THE first Journal of 1960 seems an appropriate time to talk about the activities of the South African Society of Physiotherapy and to explain what the Society does for its members.

Often new-comers to the country and newly qualified South African Physiotherapists feel that to be registered with the South African Medical and Dental Council is sufficient to enable them to obtain first-class posts. True enough the S.A.M.D.C. helps our Society and protects our members in many ways, but they cannot fight our battles for us, battles for increased salaries, increased fees in private practice and for raising of our professional status. All this must be done by our own Society efforts.

We have close on four hundred members up to date, a far cry from the early days when a half dozen trained people were scattered throughout the Union. It was their united efforts, though, which brought us to where we are today. "Unity is Strength" and only through all qualified physiotherapists in this country joining the Society can we increase our strength and make it possible for us to obtain official recognition.

The recent raise in the annual subscription to £3. 3. 0. is little enough for a professional body and the revenue thus gained hardly covers our present expenditure. In the near future we shall have to expand and have permanent headquarter's offices and paid personnel. Also plans are in the air for travelling and training bursaries amongst other things. All this means more income is needed.

At present the Central Executive Committee is stationed in Johannesburg with members of the Southern and Northern Transvaal Branches serving on it. This Committee keeps in close contact with the other Branches in the Union, all of whom have their own Branch Executive Committees. Council meetings are called regularly and to these meetings delegates from each Branch are sent and matters of National importance are discussed.

The South African Society of Physiotherapy is represented on various bodies, both International and National. The World Confederation of Physiotherapy is the most important International body and through this Confederation contact is made with those people interested in Physical Therapy throughout the world. Through this publicity, Physiotherapy is becoming more and more recognised in every country.

Here in South Africa, the South African Society of Physiotherapy is represented on the National Council for the Care of Cripples and the National Council of Women, both important bodies in our spheres. We are also interested in the National

Council for the Blind and the training of the Blind Physiotherapists. Fairly recently C.A.M.P. (Council of Allied Medical Professions) has been formed with members from various Medical Auxiliaries, including Physiotherapists, serving on the Committee.

The Central Executive Committee, through the Supplementary Health Services Committee has liaison with the South African Medical and Dental Council and when matters of importance to Physiotherapists are being discussed on the Committee, two members of the C.E.C. attend the meetings.

The Private Practitioners in the Union have a voice in their own affairs through their local branch Private Practitioner's Liaison Officer who in turn are represented on the C.E.C. by the Private Practitioners' Liaison Officer.

Student members are encouraged to join the Society before qualifying and thus can attend all Branch Meetings of interest to them. Later on becoming trained Physiotherapists they can be transferred to full members.

We welcome a goodly number of new Student Members this year from Witwatersrand University and Pretoria Physiotherapy School. May they in time, put back something into their Society by serving on committees and helping generally to carry on what was begun so many years ago by the pioneers of Physiotherapy in South Africa.

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