

WORLD CONFEDERATION FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY.

Bulletin, September 1956.

"THIS year in New York we had the knowledge that we were an International Body recognised by the World Health Organisation and that already some of our responsibilities and possibilities were taking shape. Our family is growing with the admission of new member nations and others applying for membership. The feeling of genuine International Goodwill as 'nigh-dwellers' (as Miss Mildred Elson so aptly put it) is what we shall have taken away with us. We realised that we had a common language in Physical Therapy which would surmount all barriers."

(Extract from message from the President: Miss G. V. M. Griffin in *World Confederation for Physical Therapy Bulletin*.)

Extracts from *President's Report*.—Miss Elson, *President 1951-56*:

"The next five years I believe will show many more tangible gains than in the first five. We are now ready and I know willing to do all we can individually and collectively to provide the highest quality of service to the patient wherever he may be and that there will be enough of us to do it. Only by your continued support to attain these common goals will they be realised.

"The World Confederation for Physical Therapy however, does not decree what the specific educational and professional requirements for membership shall be. We only ask that the society be composed of physical therapists, that they work only under medical direction and that the Ministry of Health, the Medical Association or some other authoritative agency certifies that the group is recognised as being composed of the qualified therapists in that country"—Plea for New Physical Therapy Organisations in countries where training has been or is being started.

Role of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy:—

"There is, I believe, some confusion as to the place and function of an International body. It is emphasised that an International Organisation does not function as does a National Organisation . . . It may recommend through group action the standards that are considered desirable and ask consideration of them by member organisations. The same is true of ethical principles, which are now being prepared. These are being stated in broad language, leaving the specifics to the national organisations it is felt that such an International document would be acceptable to all countries, it would serve as a guide for new organisations and be very useful in interpreting to other international agencies the principles which underly the practice of physical therapy in all countries."

World Health Organisation.

Mrs. R. Agersnap (Denmark) represented the World Confederation at the 9th World Health Assembly, Geneva. She discussed with Dr. Bravo and Dr. Sze how World Confederation could facilitate the work of W.H.O.:

1. Providing a list of personnel.
2. Setting up a curriculum for training for physical therapists in the under developed countries.
3. Making a list of equipment for a rehabilitation department.
4. Furnishing the W.H.O. with information on schools, hospitals and centres to which the W.H.O. could advise personnel from under-developed countries to go for training and/or experience.

Honorary Membership of Congresses.

The Executive Committee, World Confederation agreed that for future World Confederation Congresses the honour



The past and present Presidents Miss Elson (U.S.A.) and Miss Griffin (Gt. Britain) with Miss Nielson, Hon. Secretary and Secretary of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

of Honorary Membership should be confined to non-physical therapists, that is, Member Organisations should be asked when sending in their nominations for Honorary Membership for future Congresses to submit only names of medical or lay persons) see Executive Committee Minute, No 21). It will be appreciated that if Physical Therapists were accepted for Honorary Membership it would be difficult to keep the numbers small and might create invidious distinctions. This should be noted when nominations for Honorary Membership of the 1959 Congress are invited.

Appointment by United Nations.

Miss Patricia Mary Cockshutt, M.C.S.P. of Cheam, Surrey, England, has been appointed United Nations Expert in Physical Therapy to Venezuela for one year. She will assist in the organising of a rehabilitation centre to be established by the Venezuelan Institute for Social Security also in providing preparatory training for Venezuelan students who will be sent abroad for further study in this field.

Future Congresses.

The Seventh World Congress of the International Society for the Welfare of Cripples will be held in Church House, Westminster, London, England, from 22nd—26th July, 1957. The preliminary programme and registration forms may be obtained from the Congress Committee, 34 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

A luncheon party for physical therapists attending the Seventh World Congress will be held on Tuesday, 23rd July, 1957, at St. Ermin's Hotel, London, S.W.1. Those wishing to attend this function should notify the Honorary Secretary as soon as possible.

Tickets, price £1 each, can be obtained from Miss Neilson at the W.C.P.T. Headquarters. It would be appreciated if the money could be sent in advance where possible, but if there are any currency difficulties, payment can be made to the Honorary Secretary when the physical therapists arrive in England.

It is hoped to have a representative gathering of physical therapists and to invite as guests some notable people who will be attending the Congress.