

EDITORIAL

AT THIS stage in the history of Physiotherapy in South Africa, it is alarming to those of us who have completed several years intensive training, may be here, may be overseas, to find that it is possible to become a "Physio-therapist" in the course of a few weeks. What is more, to be able to earn a living of which any of us would be justly proud, particularly those of us who are struggling against the difficulties of insufficient remuneration in recognised employment.

We must realise, however, that this does open up a field of employment to a group of persons who would not otherwise be able to afford the costly training given at the two established schools in this country. It also offers training to male students without the necessity of visiting overseas centres. But we must all appreciate the possibilities and extent of such a course.

Surely this is the time when all registered and registrable Physiotherapists should rise up in one body to protect their profession and the public. It is only by means of publicising what this profession of ours actually is,

the wideness of its scope, and the scientific principals on which our treatments are based that the public will realise that Physiotherapy is an art learnt by years of experience and practice.

In due course when the Health Services Bill comes into force, these persons who have received this shortened course will find it increasingly difficult to earn a living. Meanwhile it is our duty to see that this scheme is not allowed to develop under the present circumstances. It is possible for women students in reduced circumstances to obtain bursaries during Training. What we must consider seriously is the provision of a training centre for male personnel in South Africa.

Each one of us must now make ourselves felt, and give all the publicity that is possible to this profession of ours. It is not until the ill effects of any matter become personal that any of us raise any enthusiasm to improve the conditions of our livelihood, and even then we tend to hope that someone else will make the effort.