

# SERVAMUS

1928

— 81 YEARS —

1978

Cameo tributes to two valuable clinical physiotherapists who professionally not only set extremely high standards of physiotherapy but have left behind a legacy from which the physiotherapist of 1978 is still benefiting.



*Alan Hamilton.* Aged 74 years, trained at National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London. Alan is at Groote Schuur Hospital working his 51st year of continuous service!!

Firstly, he started at the New Somerset Hospital, Green Point, Cape Town in 1928 as a blind physiotherapist. There he continued working until 1933 when

Groote Schuur Hospital was privileged to benefit from such a highly motivated colleague.

His work is of a high degree of excellence and he performs it with accuracy, skill and knowledge of a very high order. He has made himself proficient with all electrical modalities. An incredible insight into machine outputs and inconsistencies; poor performance he discerns far more rapidly than his sighted colleagues.

A loving, humane approach, an appreciative spirit and total dedication are the hallmarks of this dear colleague. We, who have been privileged to work with Alan, have come to love and appreciate these fine qualities. Under the surface bubbles a fine sense of humour. When I asked his permission to write this, he said "Is it to be my obituary?"

Whilst I pay glad tribute to Alan it would be unfair if Mrs. Hamilton were not equally appreciated. Her role of support and selfless encouragement has enabled him to live fully; (a) professionally; (b) in the family; and (c) actively in the community.

*Mrs. Miriam Baker.* Trained at Middlesex Hospital 1936. In 1948 she joined the staff at Groote Schuur Hospital where she has worked up to the present date — a total of 30 years continuous service!

In her role as a professional physiotherapist, full-time, she also reared two daughters unaided.

To know her personally over the years is to see a physiotherapist with high principles and standards of treatment. Her dedication and definite interest in student supervision and quality clinical training did not always meet with approval.

The unflagging efforts of Miriam have given us the efficient Mowbray Maternity Home pre- and post-natal physiotherapy services. The same can be said of her work with non-Europeans at Peninsula Maternity Home. It required unstinting service and perseverance.

In her treatments she made every effort to remain informed and attended and enjoyed society meetings to the full.

Miriam's high standards of ethics and behaviour not only to colleagues but to the patients whom she loved and cared for have earned her much respect.

No two fruits are the same, thus each of my colleagues has brought their own rare "gestalt" which is not easy to repeat or reproduce.

E. BROOKS.