

## EDITORIAL

NOW that we are at the beginning of a New Year, it may be as well to think about the progress that was made in our physiotherapy world in 1953, and to make some easy resolutions for 1954.

Last year was a very active one for our Society. We had some post-graduate courses, which we hope will be started again this year, we carried on a forceful battle about salaries with Provincial Administrations and with various Benefit Societies for private practitioners. We are in the last stages of registering a Society badge, and of obtaining approval for the Afrikaans name of the Society. A vast number of problems from all over the country were satisfactorily solved, or are still in the process of being solved. Unfortunately, the wheels of the official bodies with whom we have to deal, move very slowly. However, members can be assured that their requests and enquiries are not just "pigeon holed."

All the Branches have held interesting meetings and lectures, and already most have plans for more to come this year. The sending in of minutes by the Branches and the circulation of the Central Executive minutes to their members has improved, although we still receive innumerable queries which can be answered merely by reading these minutes.

We are now firmly established as a member organisation of the World Confederation, and were lucky enough to have several South Africans at the 1953 Congress in London. We have an important part to play in the affairs of the World Confederation, and certainly it will help and advise us with our own country's problems.

## World Confederation

A letter from the World Confederation for Physical Therapy has been received following representations from the C.E.C., in which the Federation regretted that it was not within the scope of their organisation to assist in furthering the establishment of reciprocity between South African qualifications in physiotherapy and similar qualifications overseas. As the World Federation were unable to help in this matter it was suggested that the South African Medical and Dental Council should be approached.

As the S.A. Medical and Dental Council had reciprocity with the British Medical Association, which in turn, had reciprocity with the C.S.P., an indirect approach to the C.S.P. might be possible in this way.

It was agreed that this matter should be placed before the S.A. Medical and Dental Council at the next Auxiliaries meeting.

Nevertheless, the only way the Society can maintain any stature, or be of real assistance to its members, is by the support of these very members and by encouraging as many new people to join as possible. Joining the Society does not mean paying an annual subscription rather unwillingly, and then sitting back and saying "What does the Society do for me?" If members would read their minutes and take a more active interest in the Society's activities, they would realise what was being done for them, often in a quiet way, merely by protecting and furthering the interests of physiotherapists in this country.

The Society cannot *do* anything for you, unless you *do* something for it. Arrange meetings and lectures; send original articles, letters or other material for publication in your Journal; support functions arranged by your Branch; do some research in your work; co-operate with other members of the medical profession. The list is endless, and if each of us had to write down what contribution we had made to our Society in 1953, there would be far too many pieces of blank paper.

Let us try and emulate the enthusiasm of the bigger Societies which was so evident at the International Congress, and not sit back and grumble at our "insuperable" difficulties of distances and so on in this country. Otherwise we remain static and discontented.

The Central Executive Committee wishes every member of the Society a happy and prosperous New Year, and looks forward to your support during it.

The World Confederation reports the acceptance of the Comité National des Masseurs-Kinésithérapeutes Français, as a member organisation.

The volume of "Proceedings of Congress" is now in preparation and is available on application to the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, price 3s. 6d. to annual subscribers to the C.S.P., price 12s. 6d. for others.

It will include all lectures and papers given at the Congress with a summary of the subsequent discussion; the speeches at the Opening and Closing Sessions and at the Dinner; brief descriptions of the demonstrations, study visits and films, together with a reprint of the programme. Orders, with remittances, should be sent as soon as possible, as no surplus copies will be printed.