

EDITORIAL

IN these days of world wide manpower shortage, it is more important than ever to return the incapacitated person to his work in the shortest possible time with the best possible functional result. This task is becoming more and more the physiotherapist's responsibility, and this is happily being recognised by both the lay and medical worlds.

War, disastrous as it is, brings with it rapid advances in all forms of science, particularly in the medical field. In the second world war, physiotherapy made greater strides in six years than it had probably made in the previous two or three decades. It was recognised as an essential therapy. Therefore, if we are to give of our best as physiotherapists, it is our duty to improve our standards by acquainting ourselves with the latest progressions which have been made in our work. It is with this aim in view that the first Postgraduate Course is to be held at Witwatersrand University early next month. A great deal of thought and hard work has been put into the preparation of this course, and it is hoped that as many as can will take advantage of it.

In South Africa, the setting up of Rehabilitation Centres such as will be shown in the films during the course, is a major problem, chiefly owing to the difficulties of distance and the comparatively small population. With the increasing number of physiotherapists in this country, and the stress that is now laid on all aspects of rehabilitation, these difficulties should prove a challenge to our ingenuity. There is a crying need for such centres, and it is up to us to agitate for their establishment.

The days of "heat, massage and movement" as routine treatments are over, and it is time for those basic methods to be supplemented and used more intelligently. This, of course, cannot be done unless we are all conversant with modern uses of physiotherapy on the one hand, while on the other we are given adequate space and apparatus with which to put our knowledge into practice. The Postgraduate Course will be not only a means of learning from lectures, but an ideal way of exchanging ideas and making plans for the future.

POSTGRADUATE PHYSIOTHERAPY COURSE

It is proposed to hold this course for the benefit of practitioners whose qualifications are registrable with the South African Medical and Dental Council. The course will be held at Witwatersrand University Medical School, and the lectures will be given by members of the Physiotherapy Department of this University.

Those wishing to attend are asked to write to Miss Jean Blair, Medical School, Witwatersrand University, not later than April 19th, enclosing £1 Is. 0d. registration fee for the course. Cheques to be made payable to the University of the Witwatersrand. As space is limited, early application is desirable.

We hope to make this the first of a series of postgraduate courses, and your support would be warmly welcomed. The response to this course will determine whether there is sufficient enthusiasm to merit the work entailed in the provision of further courses.

The proposed programme is as follows:—
Friday, May 2nd, at 8 p.m. in the Physiotherapy Department, Medical School, Hospital Street.

"Technique of treatment by Sling Suspension Therapy, and its Application." By Miss J. Blair, M.C.S.P., T.M.M.G., T.E.T.

Saturday, May 3rd, at 9.15 a.m. in the Physiotherapy Department, Medical School.

"The Place of Exercise in Modern Rehabilitation." By Miss G. Wilson, M.C.S.P., T.M.M.G.

10 a.m.—Tea.

10.30 a.m.—Demonstration of Ward Classes in Wards 32 and 33, General Hospital, Johannesburg.

2.30 p.m.—"The Possibilities of the Uses and Tested Techniques of Modern Electrotherapy Apparatus." By Miss H. Baines, M.C.S.P., T.E.T., in the Physiotherapy Department, Medical School.

4 p.m.—Tea.

4.30 p.m.—Rehabilitation Films in the Harveian Lecture Theatre, Medical School.

6.30 p.m.—Cocktail Party given by the Southern Transvaal Branch of the S.A.S.P. Venue to be announced during the course.