

EDITORIAL

THE future of physiotherapists in this country hangs in the balance and may well be vitally affected by the Medical Auxiliaries Bill which is shortly to be gazetted. Yet the fight for their rights and acceptance as qualified and responsible persons in the medical world is still left to a handful of hard working enthusiasts.

The majority of physiotherapists are quick to condemn the actions of our Society, and often to criticise in a cynical way what they consider, through their lack of knowledge, to be inaction on the Society's part. Perhaps some of the blame rests with Branch organisers who do not seem always to keep their members in touch with the activities of the Society, though reports of Central Executive meetings are sent to them, but as a mere handful of members is usually present at Branch meetings it is not surprising that Branch organisers become discouraged.

Let this be an appeal to every physiotherapist in South Africa to join our Society and offer support for the results it is so manfully trying to achieve. Success

can only be brought about by unity, and by the acceptance of the Society as the body which truly represents the opinions of physiotherapists throughout the country. This can only happen if each individual will accept the responsibility of his position as a professional person and realise that the future of physiotherapy can be moulded now by the physiotherapist. If the present apathy continues we shall find ourselves in the position of mere technicians without our own controlling body, spending time and money on acquiring knowledge which we shall never be able to use. The South African Society of Physiotherapists should have the same status and power as the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy in England, which has fought so many successful battles for its members and achieved a position of respect and authority in the medical world. A similar position can only be arrived at in South Africa if we are determined that it should be so, and are prepared to devote some of our time and interest to this end. Now is the time for physiotherapy in this country to take on a new lease of life.

Miss Crosby — An Appreciation

By DR. T. DREYER, Department of Physical Medicine,
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It was with real regret that the Physiotherapy Department of the General Hospital said good-bye to their "chief," Miss J. Crosby, on the 27th August. Miss Crosby was in charge of the Department for 31 years and saw it grow from small beginnings to the large and busy Department that it is to-day.

It was mainly due to her efforts that conditions of pay and service of physiotherapists on the staff of the General Hospital were improved, and up to her last day she was still fighting their cause. Present and past staff owe her a debt of gratitude for her untiring support. The University of the Witwatersrand School of Physiotherapy also owes much to Miss Crosby for all her interest and help. We would like to thank her most sincerely for her co-operation in the training of students.

Miss Crosby, at present in Natal, is still President of the S.A.S.P., and I am sure that all members of that Society must be aware of all she has achieved for them and for physiotherapy in this country. We hope to have her continued interest and help.

I am sure I am voicing the opinion not only of the Hospital and University Staff, but of all who were associated with her, in wishing her every success and happiness in her future undertakings.

An apology must be made to those who did not receive the July issue of **PHYSIOTHERAPY**. Unfortunately almost all the copies waiting to be posted, together with the bulk of Journal records, were destroyed in a fire at the house of the former Editor, Miss Whittaker. As she has left the country it is impossible to assess exactly what was destroyed by the fire. Further apologies may therefore be due for the omission from this number of the Journal of any articles, etc., which should have appeared, notices of books awaiting review, and new advertisements. It would be appreciated if these omissions could be brought to the notice of the present Editor for publication in the next issue.

Members are urged to let the Editor have any items of news, whether social or professional, which might interest readers. Articles and letters for publication on any relevant topic will also be welcomed. All communications should be addressed to the Editor, **PHYSIOTHERAPY**, Department of Physiotherapy, General Hospital, Johannesburg.