

EDITORIAL.**The Future of Physiotherapy in South Africa.**

According to information we have received, during the last few months Dr. E. B. Woolf has imported between twenty and thirty masseuses from Germany. The term masseuses is used because we understand they are not qualified in Electro-therapy. But since arriving in this country they have had a few weeks' training in Electrical treatments and some of them have already been posted to hospitals in sole charge of departments where there are no Registered Physiotherapists to supervise the physiotherapy treatments they have to carry out.

As it was pointed out in the last journal the shortage of Physiotherapists is largely due to the inadequate salaries paid by the Provincial Administration. Now it is not only this problem which causes a lack of attraction for students to train as Physiotherapists

but also the knowledge that the Provincial Administration are employing inadequately qualified people. This is a very serious deterrent to our profession and would not be allowed in any other profession.

If it is considered by the Physical Medicine Specialists who have trained these Germans in Electro-therapy, that they are competent to treat patients, then they should take their Electro-therapy examinations in the same way as they would have to in Britain and elsewhere. Even after four years' training no student is allowed to practise until she has passed all her examinations but these people who require preliminary training in Electro-therapy are given responsible posts after only a few weeks' tuition.

It is inevitable that if these people are allowed to practise without the necessary qualifications that the standard of Physiotherapy is going to be lowered.

**OBITUARY****CAROLINE GLADYS TROUGHTON**

It was with a feeling of profound regret that we learnt of the death on 4th December, 1950, of a revered friend and co-worker—Caroline Gladys Troughton. Born in Estcourt, Natal, she qualified as a teacher in Medical Gymnastics and Medical Electricity at the Swedish Institute, London. On completion of her studies she was appointed to the teaching staff of the Institute.

During the 1914-1918 War, she gained valuable experience at the Leatherhead Military Hospital before taking up an appointment at Guy's Hospital, London. Here she met Dr. F. P. Fouche, of Johannesburg, an orthopaedic surgeon who was so greatly impressed by the quality of her work that he asked her to work with him should she ever return to South Africa.

Miss Troughton was one of the first physiotherapists to be appointed to the newly-opened Transvaal Memorial Hospital for Children, a position she relinquished when Dr. Fouche returned to establish a practice in Johannesburg. Each outstanding in their respective spheres, these two remarkable people worked together for the next thirty years.

During this long period she found time to develop a keen interest in the administrative aspects of her profession, and took an active part in the negotiations which culminated in the formation of the South African Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics. From the outset she proved herself to be an indefatigable worker, her constant aims being to maintain the standard of physiotherapy as she knew it and to improve the lot of physiotherapists.

As Honorary General Secretary (1928-1932), Vice-President (1942-1947) and President (1947-1950) she fought hard to have the Society recognised by the medical profession as the only body of people adequately trained to carry out physiotherapeutic procedures, and her efforts to promote compulsory registration for all persons undertaking such work are too well known to require reiteration. When the South African Medical and Dental Council opened a voluntary register in 1930, she was one of the first to realise that such a register was completely useless unless organised

physiotherapy was given some say in the control of registration. Good sense prevailed and it is pleasing to record that—for some years prior to her death—Miss Troughton represented her Society as a co-opted member of the Auxiliaries Committee of the Medical Council. As such, she was in a position to help and advise that body on all matters pertaining to physiotherapy.

Through the Society she worked for the establishment of a physiotherapy training school in this country, and when this was started by the University of the Witwatersrand (without the services of a qualified teacher) she consented—despite many other duties—to act as Lecturer in the interim. Such an action was typical of the woman; unswerving in her loyalties and completely selfless in her actions, she was ever ready to step into the breach. A more recent example occurred during the recent Conference when, at very short notice, she delivered a lecture and demonstration although it must have been apparent to all that she was far from well.

She displayed a commendable sense of duty to her country when war broke out in 1939. Offering herself for enlistment she was turned down as being under the "official" weight. Nothing daunted she presented herself for re-examination with a few leaden weights concealed in her person. Whether she fooled the Medical Board or not is a moot point, but the fact remains that she was finally accepted for Army service. The end of the war found her as physiotherapist in charge of the Orthopaedic Section at the Chamber of Mines Hospital under the direct control of her old friend, Dr. Fouche.

It would require a volume if we were to attempt to say all we could about this brave and courageous lady—nevertheless—her last fight was a short one. After only three days in bed, a second attack of coronary thrombosis proved to be even more than she could withstand and she passed away.

We mourn her loss greatly and, on behalf of all her co-workers, extend our deepest sympathy to her family.