

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear Madam,

I am sorry that Miss Bodoano has based her letter in your June, 1960, issue on the wrong premises which one, unfortunately, must gain from a report which is a resumé of a talk and that she consequently drew the wrong conclusions.

My very definite opinion (not impression as Miss Bodoano states) clearly expressed in the talk—and in print—is that Physiotherapy is not practised in the best possible way in England and in South Africa, and not one word was said or implied to the detriment of English Physiotherapists, as Miss Bodoano states.

The excellence of the work of English Physiotherapists—within the bounds of their teaching—not only precludes the possibility of any detrimental remarks about them, but also surely, needs no apologia from Miss Bodoano or anybody else.

Over the last six years, I have spent four months, practically daily, visiting every major teaching hospital in London, so that I am fully acquainted with the manner in which physiotherapy is applied and taught by Specialists in Physical Medicine, other specialists, doctors and C.S.P. Teachers.

My criticism, to mention only a few points, is that in England, (and in South Africa, which apes England) the study of physiotherapy is not compulsory for medical students; combined ward rounds are not held; (except at Tara) and research is practically non-existent, in strong contrast to what is done in the other countries I visited.

This is the very reason why I deliberately mentioned the scathing remark (not "supposed" remark as Miss Bodoano writes). This remark was made by a Specialist in Physical Medicine, who has ideas about our subject which are in keeping with what is done in other countries I have visited (and also in the U.S.A.), and who is not prepared to accept what has been taught for many generations without any scientific basis or controlled experiments. Does his name

matter? (I gave it to Miss Bodoano telephonically and whoever wants it may have it with pleasure).

I did mention in my talk that the founder of the excellent school in Israel was from the C.S.P. and that she had unfortunately developed cancer and had to return home.

I completely fail to understand how Miss Bodoano concludes that I despise the C.S.P. teachers, because I criticised what they teach. I made it clear that my criticism applies equally to us Specialists in Physical Medicine—obviously, because we lack more definite knowledge.

I much regret that Miss Bodoano regards my remarks as "petty shafts". They were never meant to be such, and you, Madam Editor, and all the other physiotherapists who were present at my talk, certainly did not indicate that you regarded them as such.

Both in my talk and in print, I clearly indicated that I could perforce give only a superficial survey.

My willingness at all times, to give something constructive, as suggested by Miss Bodoano, has been well shown to you and your worthy branch of Medicine.

Surely the finest way of giving encouragement is not to indulge in fulsome praise, or underlining the obvious, but is to draw attention to ones shortcomings and to indicate how these are overcome elsewhere.

Thanking you for allowing me to utilise your valuable space,

Yours sincerely,

Norman Klass, M.B., D.Phys.Med.

To the Editor,

I am writing on behalf of the U.C.T. Staff of the Department of Physiotherapy, to congratulate Miss A. M. Bodoano for her straightforward and telling letter in the June issue of the Journal. We all wish to endorse the views expressed.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret H. S. Roper, M.C.S.P.
Lecturer in Physiotherapy.

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