

## Letters to the Editor

### Compulsory Registration.

I am interested in the question of compulsory registration. During the war years all members of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, London, were asked to become registered members of the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries.

Only about 59% of the members of the Chartered Society became enrolled on the Board's register.

However, after careful consideration and in view of the opinions expressed by members of the Council and the Society's Branches, the Chartered Society resigned from the Board, and asked all its members who had registered thereon to withdraw their names.

The Chartered Society was moved to take this action in the best interests of its members, and the Council requested the Board to remove the name of the Chartered Society and its qualifications from the Board's list of Recognised Qualifying Bodies.

I trust that our members of the South African Society of Physiotherapy will give this matter their earnest deliberation as I feel that if we become in any way affiliated to a national register we may find ourselves affiliated to a Body or Bodies, over which we have no jurisdiction or control. We might, for instance, be obliged to shorten the course of training, which would be a retrogressive step.

There is no way of assuring that patients will be more impressed by one form of registration than another.

We have been at pains to build up a strict code of ethics, and I feel that a compulsory national register will, in no way, safeguard our Society or any of its members.

We look to each individual member to keep up the traditions of the Society; in this way we hope to further the campaign in assisting the general public to recognise the difference between fully qualified physiotherapists and those who have not the qualifications to become registered members of the South African Society of Physiotherapy.

We are justly proud of our society, and I am sure that the present form of registration adequately meets our requirements.

(Mrs.) Edith E. Foster, M.C.S.P., S.A.S.P.  
Highflats, Natal.

### Equal Work — Equal Pay.

With reference to The Editorial Comment in the December issue of Physiotherapy.

The second paragraph shows what a misconception many of the older female Physiotherapists have:—"In these modern days when women and men are working together on the same projects in more and more fields, it seems strange that Physiotherapists have to be shown discrimination."

Surely when one reads the advertisements of vacancies in all branches of science, teaching, engineering etc., it shows clearly that physiotherapists have not been shown discrimination. In fact the advertisements prove that both male and female Physiotherapists still lag behind in their pay scales considering their educational qualifications.

I sometimes think that more harm is done to the Profession by the issue of equal pay for equal work than the good it does the female Physiotherapist.

Does it do the female Physiotherapist and the Physiotherapy profession any good to know that her male colleague is classed below the male nurses with whom he works?

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Does it do the female Physiotherapist and the Physiotherapy profession any good when the male Physiotherapist is unable to mix financially with members of other branches of the Civil Service with a similar educational background?

Does it do the female Physiotherapist and the Physiotherapy profession any good when a male Physiotherapist is classed as a Corporal in Her Majesty's Forces while his female colleague has a status equivalent to that of an Officer in Her Majesty's Forces?

How many members of the Society are against the increase of pay and rise in status of their male colleague?

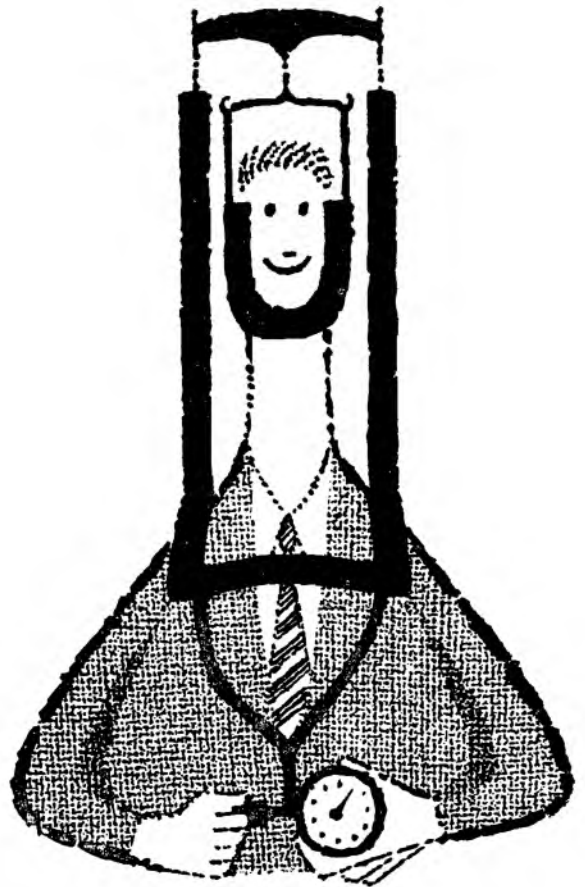
I have been a Branch Chairman, a Regional Board Representative and a Representative to the World Confederation for Physiotherapy for the Chartered Society and I have heard only two of my female colleagues actually against increases for males, all the rest have been wholeheartedly in favour of improving the status of the male Physiotherapist.

Finally, regarding the case of the widowed Physiotherapist with a small family to support. Has this case been honestly presented? In most modern countries today a widow of this class is usually in receipt of a widow's pension and children's allowances.

Yours faithfully,  
Bertram Moth  
Oranjezicht, Cape Province.

(No comment—Suggestions invited.—*Editor*)

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