

STUDENTS' COLUMN

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND WHITHER WITS

The month of July is past, and with it the last long holiday of 1964. The memories of the past month will have to last until examinations are over and we can again relax!

Under the auspices of the Southern Transvaal Branch a number of Wits. students attended a brief course of lectures by Miss Hickling. It was a fascinating introduction to a new field of work. We hope that Miss Hickling enjoyed her visit to South Africa.

Congratulations go to Mrs J. Davidson and Mrs. E. Gorfil on their success in the June final examinations. We wish them success and happiness in their future careers.

Study-visits were arranged for the students in clinical years towards the end of last term. The visit to Avalon was of special interest as we were able to see the rubber bowling green which has recently been laid down. We wish the bowlers every success in their new venture.

We wish Joy Bagg (nee Van der Bijl) everything of the very best for the future. Joy, a fourth year student, was married on the 1st July and she made a lovely bride.

We wish our fellow students the best of luck for the year-end examinations. The blossoms will soon be out on the library lawn, and as tradition has it they herald the beginning of 'exam-fever'.

PHYSIOTHERAPY COLLEGE, PRETORIA HOSPITAL STUDENTS COLLEGE NEWS

How silent and lonely the corridors of the College are, now that most of its occupants have deserted Pretoria for warmer climes. Yes, the July holidays are upon us and only 16 third-year students are working in the Departments. (Is this a taste of what is to come once we have qualified? We wonder!)

Misses A. Savin, F. de Bruin, E. Jennings and A. Hendry attended the Conference of Medical Education in Durban, during the first week in July. Miss Savin who is acting principal of our College gave a talk at the Conference on the Teaching of Physiotherapy Students, the Principles of Co-operation with other members of the Medical Team.

Miss G. Flack, Vice-Principal of the Physiotherapy School, The Royal National Institute for the Blind, London, left the College at the beginning of July to return home, having spent six weeks on our teaching staff.

Misses K. Dahl, A. de Jager, E. Price-Day and D. Stigling passed their third year supplementary exams. at the end of May. We wish them all success in their new posts.

Congratulations to Anna de Jager who represented the Northern Transvaal hockey team at the National Tournament held in Cape Town during July.

At last we are beginning to see the light with regard to the College Magazine and it is hoped to have it out in circulation by early September.

B. THOMPSON, Senior Student.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOTHERAPY

Students' Column

In June, eight candidates entered for the final examination and all passed, Hilary Shew obtaining a 2nd Class pass. Of these Heidi Fesq is working in South West Africa, Rosalie Burmeister in East London and Vivian Salo has sailed for overseas; the rest are working in Cape Town.

During the July vacation, Miss Roper, attended a Conference in Durban on medical education which was most stimulating and provided food for thought. Many principles and problems discussed relating to medical education were also relevant to the training of physiotherapists.

We were happy to welcome Miss Heather Wilson on our staff at the beginning of July. Although the second term has only started the end of the year examinations do not seem very far away.

The Second years have not been very active in spheres other than physiology recently, and there were many sighs of relief when the last physiology hurdles were taken. Now that our study in basic principles is completed, we feel that we can really get our teeth into physiotherapy proper. Each member of the class has now had a spell of clinical duty in all of the departments, i.e. Wards and Outpatients at Groote Schuur Hospital as well as the gymnasium and individual general at the Observatory Clinic.

We were represented at Inter-varsity Hockey by M. Cullis and D. Pinchin who both enjoyed the tour immensely.

In April, before writing our class tests we were very fortunate in being able to have a course of six lectures on cross frictions and manipulations with Miss Hickling, who was visiting this country from England. This proved very interesting and informative.

There have been no sporting activities to speak of during the vacation as far as the third years are concerned, with perhaps the exception of one of our group who made full use of the recent snowfalls and went climbing and skiing. The rest were either resting on their laurels, after having passed their examinations—or just resting.

Congratulations to all our contemporaries who made the grade in June and to those who did not—better luck next time. Just remember that "those extra six months never did anybody any harm".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor, Physiotherapy,
10, 4th Street, Abbotsford,
Johannesburg.

Dear Madam,

May I, through the medium of the journal, attempt to clear up a matter concerning Miss Hickling's visit to South Africa. It has come to my notice that some branch members have not been adequately informed about the arrangements made by the Northern Transvaal Branch in connection with post-graduate courses, and especially the reasons for which they were made. Consequently, due to misunderstanding, the Northern Transvaal Branch has been the target of unwarranted criticism.

The idea of asking Miss Hickling to South Africa originated when I returned from St. Thomas' Hospital, London, to take a teaching post at Pretoria. I was called upon to introduce the work as taught by Dr. Cyriax to students and qualified physiotherapists, but felt the need for introducing the work and achieving its acceptance as a regular part of physiotherapy first. This acceptance was required, not only by physiotherapists, but by the doctors who entrusted their patients to us, and by the authorities who are responsible for the training of physiotherapy students. I felt that, with my brief experience in London, I was not well enough equipped to undertake this, and started negotiations to bring one of Dr. Cyriax's experienced physiotherapists to

this country. Miss Savin took the matter up when she met Miss Hickling personally, with the result that she eventually paid us the very successful visit from which we have all benefited so tremendously.

At first it was thought that the visit could be arranged on the same lines as that of Miss Gardiner in 1962, i.e. that the C.E.C. be responsible for her fare and the arranging of post-graduate courses, and that she should spend an equal length of time at each major centre in the Republic. It proved, however, that this would not work—for the following reasons:

- (a) Miss Hickling would need, in her own opinion, at least three months (six months was the original plan) in order to establish the work at one centre alone. She could only obtain leave of absence for three months.
- (b) The C.E.C. delegated the responsibility for Miss Hickling's fare and the organisation of post-graduate courses to the Northern Transvaal Branch.

The Northern Transvaal Branch Committee felt that it would be the best plan to arrange post-graduate courses in Pretoria to suit members from all branches, i.e. an evening course for local members, two consecutive week-end courses for members from the Transvaal, and a long week-end course for members from the Cape, Orange Free State and Natal. Subsequently a fourth course was arranged in Johannesburg for the convenience of the blind physiotherapists in that area, at the request of the Blind Physiotherapists' Group.

The reasons for these arrangements were that it was felt by the Committee (in consultation with Miss Hickling) that:

- (a) If the courses were held locally, the members attending would have the opportunity to observe Miss Hickling at work in clinics and the department of the orthopaedic hospital, where the methods were accepted, equipment was to hand, and material for demonstration was readily available, with patients known to Miss Hickling. This would increase the value of attendance at a course.
- (b) The Northern Transvaal could not finance a country-wide teaching tour on their own.
- (c) There was not sufficient time available during Miss Hickling's visit to enable her to visit all centres from which requests had been received.
- (d) It would be a considerable saving of Miss Hickling's time and energy if members could travel to her headquarters instead of her travelling to various centres. It was felt that Pretoria was at least nearer than London!
- (e) The Northern Transvaal Branch did not have the manpower to cope with the extra correspondence and organization that would have been required to arrange visits to other centres as well.
- (f) It was felt that, by establishing the methods permanently at the Pretoria Orthopaedic Hospital, the knowledge gained from Miss Hickling's visit could not only be disseminated to all physiotherapists in South Africa during her stay, but also continue to do so after she had returned to England.
- (g) Pretoria was selected as the centre at which the work should be established because it was near the S.A.S.P. headquarters, within easy reach of two physiotherapy training centres, a post on the Pretoria teaching staff was available for Miss Hickling, the orthopaedic surgeons and physical medicine specialists had expressed in letters their interest in the work, and I had already been trained in the methods and could help Miss Hickling with courses etc., and ensure continuity when she returned to England.

I sincerely hope that you will find space to print this rather lengthy letter in your journal, in order to clear up the unfortunate misunderstanding between some of our Branches.

Yours sincerely,

BRUN. WINTER.

Madam,

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

The above slogan has been one of the loudest cries of both the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and of the S.A.S.P. ever since I can remember.

Has it, or will it, advance the status of the Society now or in the future? Will it really increase the salaries of the members of the Society? Has it really over the last thirty years, made the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy an outstanding Society where salaries and conditions are concerned?

I think the time is ripe for the Society to press for increased salaries in accordance to the Government Policy rather than with suffragette ideas however high-minded they may be.

The latest advertisement in the *Cape Times*, 21st July, 1964 offers the following vacancies in the Cape and Orange Free State Hospitals:

Electrician, Plumber, Carpenter: R1,308 x R102—R2,040.
Physiotherapist, Male Grade II: R1,104 x R102—R2,160.

This in effect gives you the status of a Physiotherapist. Unless the Society can alter this, whether you get equal pay or not, it is this type of thing that shows the standing of Physiotherapists.

In all Governmental departments the salary level of assistant Professional Officers commence at R1,410 upwards. Therefore it is my contention that unless a male physiotherapist is paid at this level the status of physiotherapy as a whole is lower than that of an artisan—whether you have equal pay or not.

We have at the moment about 74 physiotherapists in the whole of the Cape Province. Can we really expect to sway the Province to change its whole policy of male and female salaries for us?

We should be realistic in our claims and work within the accepted Government Policy and with the accepted Government Grades, i.e.:

Assistant Professional Officer;
Professional Officer;
Senior Professional Officer;
Principal Professional Officer;
Chief Professional Officer.

I feel if a concentrated effort was put forward on the above lines to the Government, cutting out claims for equal pay for equal work and part-time work, etc., simply trying to get ourselves accepted on the Professional Officers' Scales we would have a greater chance of increasing both the status of our Society and increasing the salaries of all our members.

Yours truly,

BETRAM G. MOTH.

108 Port Soy,
Beach Road, Three Anchor Bay,
Cape Town.
22nd July, 1964.