



Mrs. T. practising for the International Stoke Mandeville Games for Wheelchair Sportsmen.

themselves coming to give them assistance, their whole outlook changed, and they soon, with increasing enthusiasm, started work. So great became the demand for work that soon a second person had to be employed to cope.

At this time we were fortunate to have a former World Archery Champion join the hospital staff as an aid in the Physiotherapy Department. She started the present Princess Alice Archery Club, and quickly its popularity spread through the hospital, and patients flocked to the shooting range. One of its most enthusiastic members was Mrs. T., and it soon became apparent that she had the qualities of a first-class archer. Mrs. T. now began training in earnest, as we had received an invitation from the Director of Stoke Mandeville Hospital Spinal Injuries section in Aylesbury, England, to send a team of wheelchair sportsmen to the yearly international games held at Stoke. South Africa had never as yet competed as a team at the games, and it was decided "now or never". Every lunch time and every week-end Mrs. T. practised, unmindful of wind and weather, as only 2½ months remained before the games. During all this preparation she ran her home as usual, worked in the mornings at the hospital, helped the children in the afternoons at home and did the cooking as before.

During the end of June the touring American wheelchair athletes visited our hospital and Mrs. T. became a firm favourite with them. They are always quoted as examples of

well rehabilitated people, but one and all were impressed by Mrs. T.'s remarkable performance not only in her sportsmanship but mostly in the capable way she runs her social life and home.

The eventual Gold Medal that Mrs. T. won in the Archery at the International Games is much more than just a Gold Medal, it is the reward of endless perseverance and courage in the face of extreme adversity. Not only can she compare favourably with any rehabilitated person confined to a wheelchair, but even with normal healthy persons she can hold her own, as in the recent Western Province Archery championships she was a member of the winning Ladies' team of three, and the only wheelchair archer on the shooting line.

What a perfect example this is of what can be achieved by a disabled person with a little courage and perseverance

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

28th December, 1962

Editor, *Physiotherapy*,

I am much impressed by the letter in the December *Physiotherapy* by G. S. Schermbucker on Chiropractic and the Commission of Enquiry.

Registered Members should prepare to meet this challenge; but, who will bell the cat?

U Thant in his address to the General Assembly of the United Nations said he believed every nation had its honest difference of opinion. I feel we must not try to belittle our opposition, but try to find a way for the Chiropractors to form their own Register. It will be a matter for the Government to decide whether their clients are to qualify for any benefits under such schemes as Insurance and Workmen's Compensation.

It should be pointed out that this issue has only very recently arisen, and bears no justifiable weight to prove that non-qualified persons should be placed on the Medical and Dental Register of South Africa.

It should also be pointed out that the Chiropractors indulge in self advertisement, they do their own diagnosing, and have not knowledge or access to medical techniques, to warn them when giving manipulations in cases which are definitely contra-indicated for massage, such as Tuberculosis of the Spine, or cancerous kidney.

It is our duty to say to every patient, "I am allowed to give treatment only under medical supervision," and it is our earnest desire to keep this principle ever foremost.

The bureaucratic mind requires concrete examples. I hope that patients and doctors, and physiotherapists, will come forward, to prove that to protect the public, we must not have unqualified persons on the roll. We will, in future, have more cults and treatments creeping in, we have a long row to hoe, but any of these must not be allowed to take a hold. On this issue we must stand firm. I would like to suggest that each branch be asked to appoint a team to meet the Commission and choose a spokesman, and to put forward specific cases of wrong treatment following on no diagnosis of organic diseases present, or incorrect diagnosis.

I trust the inquiry will not be allowed to develop into something of a fencing skill at arms context, ending in thrust for thrust, manipulation for counter-manipulation, and that there will be definite good and lasting results.

It is time such people as members of a Government Commission of Enquiry in South Africa learned the facts. We will be happy to supply them, and look forward to a result which will be generally healthy and beneficial.

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