

EDITORIAL

At the recent congress held in Pretoria many speakers stressed the need for all of us to adequately prepare for the new South Africa. Although no one can adequately foretell the future and as Ionesco stated one can only predict things after they have happened. What is certain is that there will be changes in all facets of our lives including health care and education which will directly affect us as professionals.

Some of the challenges facing us were mentioned by Professor Sparks while Miss Eksteen urged us to be proactive in our undergraduate training so that we will not be left behind. The message that did come across was that primary and community health will become increasingly more important and it is up to all of us to ensure that we are prepared for these new concepts in health care.

Almost one half of the 39 papers presented were original research projects but only four of these were studies relating to community health and plans for future practice. Although it is essential that we continue to undertake research into the effectiveness of our treatment programmes, it is essential that we also plan and implement relevant physiotherapy

based on the projected needs of future health care. The importance of involving the community before doing such research was highlighted as was the need to establish the differential role demarcation of the various health workers.

The 19th General Meeting of the National Council again generated open discussion and it was most heartening to see the great deal of time devoted to the public which is undertaken on behalf of the Society by our various members.

It was clear that the majority of the Council members concurred with the national chairman that all forms of discrimination against our members and their patients was abhorrent to them, and that we needed to find ways of ensuring that all our members feel at home in and are proud to be members of our Society.

Two years ago Miss L Davids remarked, in her editorial, on the atmosphere of unity that was apparent at the 18th Council Meeting. It will take all our goodwill and resolve to forget injustices in the past and to work together to make our profession and our Society ones to be even more proud of in the emergent new South Africa.♣

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