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EDITORIAL

At the Council Meeting held at Bloemfontein, the immediate past editor, reported that few research or review articles were received by the Journal and that it was necessary to solicit articles on a set central theme in order to publish each issue. There exists no bank of articles from which to draw for the Journal, so that it is possible that some issues might be missed for lack of content. No professional journal can function adequately under these circumstances.

What are the responsibilities of a professional journal? Most journals are the official organ of a professional association. The policy of the association, its activities and general functioning are all reflected in the journal. Thus members of the association are kept *au fait* with what is happening in their profession and what their association is doing to promote and extend that profession. The journal is the voice of the association and therefore by the same token it is the voice of the members.

The journal has a responsibility to the individual members of the association to reflect their views on professional matters. These do not necessarily have to agree with the views of the executive. A professional journal should be open to publish all shades of opinion.

The journal is responsible to the profession as a whole. It should be dedicated to the maintenance of high standards of practice and education. This is reflected in the articles published. No journal of any standing should be obliged to publish everything received. A responsible editorial board will review all articles and decide whether the content is of sufficient standard and probity before publishing. It should be remembered that journals are regularly exchanged throughout the world so that the profession's international reputation is to a large extent dependent on the content of its journal.

In our drive towards higher standards and professional identity we must not forget the general public or the individual patient. Your editorial board consists of professionally active physiotherapists. They must be fully aware of the implications of all products advertised. No sign of "quackery" should be allowed to appear. This applies to the content of articles published as well. We have a responsibility to the public not to disseminate questionable results or dubious products. All miracles are viewed with a certain degree of distrust!

If the members of a profession wish to project an educated and

dynamic image, they must be prepared to contribute to their journal. If their work is to be regarded as important and contributing to the world of knowledge and expertise, it must be published in a reputable professional journal. Only through writing and publication can knowledge be disseminated and the country's professional image become established. Although the journal editorial is responsible for the selection of content, it is ultimately the responsibility of the members of the profession to produce the goods. You need a journal to establish your professional worth and identity. The Journal needs you to provide the means to accomplish this.

L. M. Davids

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