

Foreword

The Editor of the Journal of the South African Society of Physiotherapists has asked me for a foreword to this issue of the Journal. I gladly comply with his request, because as a general practitioner in the country, as a general practitioner in a city, and as a specialist surgeon in the City of Johannesburg, I doubt whether I have appreciated the assistance of any body of people connected with the medical profession, but not qualified in medicine, more than I have appreciated the work and the assistance of physiotherapists, both for myself, as a patient and for my patients.

I have always been in favour of early movements and early exercises and early physiotherapeutic treatment, guided by skilled practitioners. I owe the members of the Society a great debt and I am satisfied that I am not alone in this.

In latter years, I have had more to do with the injured workman than with any other

patients, and I make bold to say that a masseur or masseuse of character can help at least as much as the surgeon to get the injured workman back to work, and to get the injured workman back to work is the object of all treatment; get him back happy if you can, but get him back. I said something like this, I find, in the September number of your journal in 1930. I believe in character and personality for the masseur and the masseuse and the practitioner of physiotherapy more than ever nearly 20 years afterwards. Efficiency, of course; knowledge of the job certainly, but character above all.

A fresh start is being made with your Journal, I understand. I wish you well. An attractive Journal can do a lot to keep the profession together, to keep the members interested and create enthusiasm for the job.

Good luck to you all.

JOSEPH J. LEVIN.

Editorial

During the course of the last twenty years, the Journal of the South African Society of Physiotherapists has had rather a chequered career. First printed and published in Cape Town, it later moved to Pietermaritzburg. After a few years there it returned to the town of its birth, in which place it continued to reside until 1946.

It will be seen, therefore, that without the enthusiasm of the Cape Town members, ably led, first by Miss A. Dreebin and later by Mr. G. S. Schermbrucker, it would have been extremely difficult for the Society to have carried on such a publication.

Since 1946, and owing to circumstances over which the Society had no control, the Journal has been out of circulation, a fact which has caused grave concern to all, and, in particular, to your Central Executive Committee. The members of this hard working body have now requested the present Editor and his Committee to emulate the deeds of former stalwarts.

Inexperienced as we are, not feeling at all like stalwarts and fully conscious of our shortcomings, we do, however, take pleasure in introducing Physiotherapy as the successor

to the Journal. We sincerely hope that, in time, it will fulfil the long felt want caused by the non-appearance of the latter.

It must here be stressed that the success of such an undertaking depends primarily upon the support and co-operation of members. It is not enough just to read the Journal. If you like some particular feature write and let us know. If you definitely dislike something, or think that the whole thing is wrong from front to back, also write and give us your views and suggestions.

We don't know what you think and must rely on your letters to give us a cross current of your views. If you are not a member of the Society contact the General Secretary, or write and tell us how you think it might be improved. Through the medium of Physiotherapy we have a glorious opportunity for unification and as the motto of this country states, "Unity is Strength."

For contributing the foreword to this issue, we offer our thanks to Mr. Joseph J. Levin, who, in addition to being a good friend of the Society for many years, has also been Honorary President of the Transvaal Branch since 1932. Thank you, Mr. Levin.