

Contents:

Editorial	Page 3
Applications and Advantages of Stable Galvanism	Page 4
Observations on Neuromuscular Dysfunction in the Addington Outbreak	Page 7
General.....	Page 8
Sports—A Revelation to the Paraplegic	Page 10
Personal	Page 13
Branch News	Page 13
Review of Some Ultrasonic Treatments at Johannesburg General Hospital	Page 14
In Defence of Physiotherapy	Page 15
Book Review	Page 15

EDITORIAL

THE shortage of staff in Provincial Hospitals is becoming more and more alarming and its repercussions increasingly apparent.

Those suffering most are of course the patients. New and improved methods and ideas of treatment are constantly being evolved, yet the patients are often prevented from benefiting fully because the physiotherapist simply has insufficient time to give the best of her knowledge and skill.

This scandalous state of affairs is in part unavoidable in that the demand for physiotherapy increases daily as the medical profession becomes aware of its value, and there are not enough people being trained to supply the public's needs.

However, a great number of physiotherapists who would prefer to work in Hospitals for various reasons are economically prevented from doing so because of the low salaries offered. There must be those who would be prepared to do part-time work, particularly during a period of crisis such as is being experienced on the Rand at present

over the incidence of polio, but the days are passed when financial recompense could be discounted as unimportant.

Furthermore this staff shortage reflects on the reputation of physiotherapy itself. The only way to demonstrate its place in the medical field is by example and results. Unless the staff have time to treat cases comprehensively these results will not be of maximum value. Failure is often more impressive than success and destructive criticism over one particular case can damn the profession as a whole.

It is therefore only under ideal working conditions, viz. enough staff, adequate apparatus and planned accommodation, that physiotherapy can show its true worth. Some of the present day problems seem insoluble, but certainly an increase in the Government and Provincial salary scales would go a long way towards staffing their institutions with keen and competent physiotherapists, thus providing the public with the services to which they are entitled and for which they pay.