

CONFERENCE

THE Nineteenth Conference of the Society was held at Kimberley from October 9th—11th and was attended by sixteen delegates, representing every Branch in the country, and by a number of other members of the Society.

The Conference was opened by Dr. J. G. Collins, President of the South African Medical Association. He gave a most amusing speech, and assured us of the recognition we now receive in the field of rehabilitation and the important part which we have to play. He also attributed many flattering, but essential, qualities to the make-up of a good physiotherapist.

Apart from many hours spent on discussion of the Society's past achievements and future plans, Branch resolutions and other projects, we heard a most interesting lecture from Miss Blair on the latest methods and techniques of muscle testing and stimulation. Mrs. Reynolds, of the Northern Cape Branch, kindly provided a patient for us to see these methods put into practice. This was an extremely informative lecture, and proved how valuable it is to include talks and discussion of our work at the Conference. It is to be hoped we shall slowly be able to extend the scope and number of lectures in years to come.

Mr. H. Kretschmer, of Medical Distributors, kindly showed us some of his latest equipment, and provided interesting literature for us to read about the apparatus and their uses. The Ultrasonic machine which he showed us aroused particular interest, as did a simplified form of neck traction which can be used for home treatments.

However, it was not all work, and a magnificent programme of entertainment had been arranged by our hosts, members of the Northern Cape Branch. This included a civic cocktail party at the City Hall, where we were welcomed and entertained by the Deputy Mayor, followed by a delightful braaivleis given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry.

We were taken to see the Big Hole, where apart from the Hole itself, we saw most interesting photographs and relics of early Kimberley during the "diamond rush." The de Beer dogs entertained us to a fascinating display of their training and its miraculous results, and in a more professional vein, most interesting visits were paid to the School for Physically Handicapped at Diskobolos and to the Helen Bishop Orthopaedic Home.

Our thanks must go to the Northern Cape Branch and to Kimberley itself for wonderful hospitality, which included accommodation for certain of the delegates, a most efficient taxi service, manned by Branch members, and quantities of food and drink which threatened often to distract us from the business of Conference!

Sincere thanks, too, to Miss Smith, our part time Secretary, who spent many hours preparing reports for Conference, and will have to spend many more hours sorting out the vast and complicated discussions which took place. All members of the Society will receive the minutes of the Conference in due course.

These are the main points of the resolutions which were passed and will be carried out by the Central Executive Committee:—

- (1) That the Constitution be revised in the next 3 months.
- (2) That the clause "That an outside person, i.e. not necessarily a physiotherapist, could be asked to become President of the South African Society of

Physiotherapists," be incorporated in the new Constitution.

- (3) That the Branches keep 10/- of the Annual Subscriptions paid by practising and non-practising members, this to take effect from July 1st, 1954.
- (4) That the Society endeavour to place at the disposal of its members a group endowment policy similar to that of the S.A. Nursing Association.
- (5) That the Society should obtain an undertaking that no unregistrable physiotherapist will in future be employed in Government, Provincial or private institutions, or by medical practitioners, and that no one be appointed to a charge post unless registrable as a physiotherapist.
- (6) That a regular register of practising members be published, together with one of private practitioners, to be circulated to those interested.
- (7) That the Provincial Authorities be requested to pay the locum fees laid down by the Society.
- (8) That the W.C.A. authorities be asked to continue payment of full fees after thirty treatments.
- (9) That the Society encourage the use of the Journal for the advertisement of Provincial posts.
- (10) That the Provincial Administrations be asked to use the "notch" system when employing physiotherapists.
- (11) That efforts be made to create a Senior Grade for female physiotherapists in Natal.
- (12) That the fee paid by the W.C.A. for treatment of Natives be raised to 10/-.
- (13) That the W.C.A. and Military Pension scale of fees be raised.
- (14) That Medical Aid fees be raised.
- (15) That Hospital salaries and conditions be investigated and standardised in all Provinces.
- (16) That an Honorarium of £60 per annum be paid to the Honorary General Secretary.

The following Office Bearers were elected:—

President	Miss S. Oosthuizen.
Vice-President	Miss J. Blair.
Hon. Gen. Secretary	Miss H. Baines.
Hon. Gen. Treasurer	Miss H. Benford.
Appointments Bureau	Miss H. Benford & Miss M. Douglas.
Editress	Miss L. Dyer.
Assistant Editress	Miss H. Baines.
Registrar	Mr. A. Rothberg.
Committee Members	Miss M. Emslie, Mr. P. Kelly, Miss F. de Bruin, Miss C. Baker.

The following members were co-opted at the Central Executive Meeting held on October 13th:—

Mrs. M. Levy, Miss S. Levitt, Mrs. S. Bold, Mrs. M. Dodds and Miss C. Whiting.