

MODERN ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY & REHABILITATION

RECENTLY SIR REGINALD WATSON-JONES has been on a lecture tour of the Union and I was privileged to hear his address to the local branch of the S.A. Medical Association. The meeting was very well attended and most of the doctors listened spell-bound. In fact the Chairman specifically mentioned this when he thanked Sir Reginald.

I can only give the gist of the address which showed how orthopaedic surgery had improved in the last fifty years, aided by the use of anti-biotics to control sepsis as never before possible. The slides shown as illustrations of what Sir Reginald had done during the recent War were almost incredible; results after Air crashes and forced landings; a landing without a parachute and the man lived to tell the tale and go back "on ops" in two years. One man with nineteen fractures all of which were satisfactorily dealt with and the man able to be a useful citizen afterwards. Sir Reginald also mentioned that in his experience early movements of the fractured bone was definitely NOT permissible. But that unaffected limbs should not be allowed to waste from inactivity, thus making the task of rehabilitation longer than necessary.

The final slide showed a number of men in Spinal plaster jackets playing netball, and the lecturer said,

"you will particularly notice that these men look happy. I must stress the great importance of aftercare in these cases. Don't be content to do just the necessary surgery and leave it at that; You must follow up, not regarding the case as out of your care until the patient is as normal as possible." He then emphasised the necessity for co-operation between the surgeon, physiotherapist and occupational therapist AS A TEAM in rehabilitation of the injured.

As a physiotherapist I was particularly glad to hear this coming from such an important source. It is often the case that doctors do not follow up soon enough (if at all) and thus deformities occur which might easily have been obviated if only the patient had been sent for physiotherapy sooner. Who of us does not know of, say, a colles fracture left in plaster for weeks and weeks during which time every joint in the whole arm becomes stiff from lack of use? The patient is afraid to move anything in that arm and it becomes "a spare part" — the whole thing not just the fracture necessarily immobilised by a plaster so that union may be established. It is to be hoped that the advice given by Sir Reginald Watson Jones will not fall on deaf ears.

Sent by B. J. Gordon, Addington Hospital, Durban.

GENERAL NEWS

Letter to The General Secretary from the Provisional Committee for the World Confederation for Physical Therapy.

Dear Miss Oosthuizen,

You will recall that, in my letter of 17th May, 1950, I informed you that a Constitution had been drafted at the Paris Meeting of the Provisional Committee for a World Confederation for Physical Therapy. The legal work on the draft has not yet been completed but it is hoped that this will be done before long. Meanwhile the Provisional Committee feel that arrangements should proceed for an Inaugural Meeting of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy to be held in September, 1951.

Fortunately, the Second International Poliomyelitis Conference is being held in Copenhagen from 3rd to the 7th September and the International Council for the Care of Cripples Meeting is being held in Stockholm from 8th to the 13th September. It is understood that governments of various countries will be sending representatives. It is hoped that by interspersing between these two meetings the Inaugural Meeting of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy, a large number of Physical Therapists from all over the world will be able to be present. The Provisional Committee have therefore decided themselves to meet in Copenhagen on Friday, 7th September, and to hold the Inaugural Meeting of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy on Saturday, 8th September. It is hoped that besides these two business meetings there will be time for some social activities so that the Physical Therapists from the various countries may have the opportunity of getting to know each other. It is also hoped that there will be a demonstration of Physical Therapy, and that there will be space for exhibits in the way of posters or models from all the countries represented at the Inaugural Meeting.

The Provisional Committee feel sure that your Association will agree that the formation of a World Confederation for Physical Therapy is of great importance and will wish to appoint an official delegate to the Inaugural Meeting, and that individual members of your Association will wish to attend as observers. You are therefore asked to give the widest publicity to the inauguration of the World Confederation in the Journal of your Association, or by any other means you have of reaching your members, so that the meeting may be made known. The Inaugural Meeting of the World Confederation will be listed on the programmes of the Poliomyelitis Conference in Copenhagen and of the Cripples Conference in Stockholm; furthermore, Physical Therapists attending the World Confederation Meeting in Copenhagen will also be invited to the Poliomyelitis Conference.

Miss Elson, the Chairman of the Provisional Committee of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy, has met in New York the organisers of the Poliomyelitis Conference and they have kindly agreed to let us use their services in arranging accommodation, not only for our meetings but also for Physical Therapists wishing to stay in Copenhagen.

The Inaugural Meeting of the World Confederation will be held at the Hotel Angleterre (the headquarters of the Poliomyelitis Conference) and the Housing Committee in Denmark will arrange accommodation. Further details regarding accommodation will be sent to you later.

It is hoped that you will bring all these matters to the early attention of the members of your Association so that there will be a good attendance of both delegates and observers at the Inaugural Meeting of the World Confederation.

Yours sincerely,

M. J. NEILSON,

Convenor, Provisional Committee for International Collaboration in Physiotherapy.