

GENERAL

FORMATION OF A CHARGE PHYSIOTHERAPIST GROUP

At the recent Council Meeting held in September this year permission was granted for the formation of a Charge Physiotherapist Group within the South African Society of Physiotherapy. The object of this group will be primarily to discuss and formulate policies in matters concerning physiotherapy in hospitals. This need not be limited to Provincial Hospitals. The physiotherapist in charge of the department may be holding a Senior, Grade I or Grade II post. Where there is only one post at a hospital the person appointed to it, is the physiotherapist-in-charge. Where there are two Grade I posts but no Senior post, the person who has given longer service, and is therefore the senior person on the staff, is the physiotherapist-in-charge.

An appeal is made to all charge-physiotherapists who are members of the S.A.S.P., to write to Miss B. Winter, College of Physiotherapy, P. O. Box 437, Pretoria., and indicate your interest in this proposed group.

Items for discussion or correspondence could eventually include such domestic matters as provincial salaries, uniforms, shoe allowance, prescription of treatment by doctors, card and filing systems, the latest techniques of physiotherapy, etc., which do not fall under the jurisdiction of Council or Central Executive Committee.

An interim Committee will have to be drawn up, and the formation of the Group finally ratified by Council at the next meeting.

PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS' REGISTER

Private Practitioners are advised that a new and revised Private Practitioners' Register will be published in the near future.

Please send in name, address and full details to the Private Practitioners Representative:

Miss M. Emslie,
602, Van Riebeeck Building, Pretoria.

PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS' ENQUIRIES

All correspondence concerning Private Practice and Private Practitioners' should be sent direct to Miss Emslie at the above address.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor, *Physiotherapy*,

Dear Madam,

I hasten to comment on a matter published in the journal *Physiotherapy*, Vol. XIX, No. 3, September, 1963, under the heading "Branch News."

The Natal Midlands Branch (I quote) "was horrified to hear that Dr. Mills regards physiotherapy as a non-essential service." While heartily endorsing their horror at such an attitude, it should be pointed out clearly that Dr. Mills was not expressing his personal opinion, not speaking as Superintendent of the Johannesburg General Hospital. He was advising the Combined Executive Committee of C.A.M.P. regarding the attitude of the Department of Hospital Services towards the essential services required in a hospital.

The attitude of this Department is that a hospital must have (besides patients)—doctors, nurses (to care for the patients daily needs, etc.), radiographers, dieticians and porters, but that a hospital *can* function without physiotherapists. That is the reason why the salaries of physiotherapists in Provincial Hospitals are lower than those of nurses. Dr. Mills advised the meeting to base their request

for increased salary scales on those scales recommended by the S.A. Nursing Council, putting them slightly lower, in view of the attitude of the Department of Hospital Services towards these two professions. Should we ask for scales equal to, or higher than those requested by the Nursing Council, such a request should be accompanied by very sound and acceptable reasons why we consider our services equal or more essential than nursing. We should also prove that the physiotherapist carries equal or greater responsibilities than those of a nurse or sister of equal grading. Should we disregard their advice, Dr. Mills assured us from his long experience that the scales would not be considered by the authorities.

Therefore a suggested scale was drawn up and submitted to C.A.M.P., taking account of Dr. Mills' advice, in order to have some hope of achieving success. The suggested scales, while a considerable improvement on the present scale, is slightly below that recommended by the S.A. Nursing Council. This requested scale was accompanied by a motivation, i.e. a statement containing the reasons for the request.

I feel that the Natal Midlands Branch have put forward some very good arguments, and suggest that these be incorporated in the general salary motivation submitted to C.A.M.P. I also feel that they should address their remarks, not to Dr. Mills, but to the Department of Hospital Services, whose views he tried to convey to us so clearly.

I would like to thank Dr. Mills for giving up an evening in order to help us in our deliberations on salaries, and hope that his advice will prove profitable to all physiotherapists in the future.

Yours sincerely,
BRUN. WINTER.

October 2nd, 1963.

The Editor,

May I make use of the Journal to convey to my physiotherapy friends and colleagues in South Africa, my very sincere thanks for the many messages of good wishes and congratulations on my marriage, and the gifts of so many beautiful and useful presents.

It is quite impossible to thank individually all those physiotherapists who subscribed to my "Kitchen Tea" and all the members of the Northern Transvaal Branch for their lovely gifts.

My five years in South Africa and the people I met and worked with, has been a wonderful experience and my years at the Pretoria College of Physiotherapy were very happy ones.

I feel that the profession has a wonderful future in South Africa and a tremendous contribution to make to the country at all levels, the atmosphere of interest and enthusiasm in all Physiotherapy Groups is stimulating, and I am very happy that I had the opportunity of playing a small part in the work.

I cannot express too deeply the affection I have for the Pretoria College and Department of Physiotherapy, an affection based on the help, goodwill and co-operation of both staff and students.

You probably all know that Council at its recent meeting, bestowed on me a life membership of the Society. I am fully aware of the great honour the Society has paid me, and I find it difficult to express my appreciation and thanks.

My husband joins with me in sending good wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely,
ANGELA DEACON.

I Ar-y-Gob,
Trelawnyd,
nr. Rhyll, N. Wales.