

EDITORIAL

"HEADS IN THE SAND"

There is hardly one if any member of this Society who does not know that we are once more pressing for legislation by a Bill through Parliament for a compulsory Register for Masseuse/s and Physiotherapists. But there does seem to be still some confusion among our members as to the implication of such a register.

Physiotherapy in this country is, now as it is in most countries of the world, an established and proven Science. We have three recognized training institutions and enjoy a high standard of training, encourage a strong ethical code and have gained the recognition and respect of the medical profession, NATIONAL ALLIED LAY BODIES and the general public.

You may ask, then why is it necessary to gain Government protection of the name "Physiotherapy", which is one of the major implications of a compulsory Register.

One of the most important reasons arises out of our own fault. We are divided in our own ranks, some of us are still living with our heads in the sand. The false conception that if the individual is safely making his or her own living, observing all the ethical rules and has no or little opposition, the rest of the world doesn't matter and his or her own livelihood is assured.

This Country is steeped in superstitions, there is an unusually large belief in black magic, and the cults, that conventional medicine as a whole is often thought of with suspicion. It is natural therefore that South Africa can boast a very high proportion of "Cults", and whatever our legislation we cannot prevent the public from supporting them.

What we can do is unite and by our strength in unity, by publicity and propaganda and by our own results in treatment, try and educate the public.

One of the foremost and important ways in which this can be done is to obtain full Government recognition and prevent our Science being "mumbo-jumboed" by the practitioners of cults. And secondly by issuing and distributing propaganda and publicity whenever and wherever possible.

You there with your heads in the sand, you may feel safe but, it is not a very stable position. Now is your chance to look at the Sun.

**COMPULSORY REGISTRATION
PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED
FORMS AT ONCE**

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