

## REPORT ON THE 8th MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES HELD ON SAT. 1 NOV. IN JOHANNESBURG

The meeting was attended by 34 members representing office bearers, members of the National Executive Committee of the Society, members of the Professional Board for Physiotherapy, the Society Officers, and representatives of the Sub-Committees, Branches and Special Interest Groups/Associations of the Society, as well as S.A.S.P. representatives on National Bodies.

### NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT (Read by Mrs. Mathias, Chairman)

The Society mourns the death of Professor Bromilow-Downing, who was its honorary Life-President. Mrs. Beattie was co-opted onto the Committee in the place of Miss Pretorius who had resigned and Mrs. Glauber was appointed as Assistant Treasurer. Appreciation was expressed for the reports on the business of the Professional Board presented by Mrs. Levy as Chairman, who, as immediate past Chairman, is an active member of the NEC. A summary of the main activities of the Society in working for improved salaries and conditions of service for physiotherapists in hospital service, was tabled in response to a request from the NCR meeting held in May 1980. Miss Irwin-Carruthers undertook to collate information and to draw up a memorandum to present to the Commission of Enquiry into Health Services. This is a document of importance to our profession and the preliminary work done so far is impressive and evidence of thoughtful concerted efforts.

The principle of recognition and training of Departmental Assistants now appears to be accepted by all. Step by step implementation of Departmental Assistants will now have to be appraised.

The memorandum on the amendment to Ethical Rules J 45 (a) of S.A.S.P. and Rule 21 of the Professional Board was submitted to the Chairman of the Federal Council of the M.A.S.A. with a request for interview with the Parliamentary Sub-Committee, but to date the meeting has not been finalised.

At the Biennial Congress of the South African Association for Physical Education and Recreation held in Port Elizabeth in September 1980, Miss Sally Eager spoke on physiotherapy in sports injuries and Miss Runnalls outlined the role of the physiotherapist in cardiac rehabilitation. From this Meeting it was clear that physiotherapists should attend and speak at any function which will promote the profession and that the two speakers did a major promotion for the S.A.S.P. Members of the Eastern Province Branch were thanked for their support and assistance to the speakers and Mrs. Morton, who also attended. The roles of the different disciplines will undoubtedly be debated, for instance at the M.A.S.A. Congress to be held in 1981.

The demand for physiotherapy services is growing and in view of the proposed expansion of mental health care and a request received from the Department of Health, physiotherapy in psychiatry will need attention. It will have to be decided whether this needs to be done at under- or post-graduate level.

Local continuing education courses continue to flourish. There seems to be a need for a course or courses in ergonomics, and a request has been received for a lecture tour by a physiotherapist who is an expert in the treatment of hands. It was suggested that post-registration courses for 1981 be considered in relation to the numerous congresses already planned by different organisations. Miss M. Quinton, of Berne, will only be able to conduct a course or courses on NDT in 1983 and it was felt that arrangements should continue for this.

An ad hoc sub-committee, chaired by Mrs. Lennard, has been formed to co-ordinate participation of members in local programmes for the International Year of

Disabled People and to advise members in every region. Numerous meetings have already been announced and members are requested to submit all relevant and useful information to the co-ordinating committee.

The week of Congress and the 14th National Council Meeting of the S.A.S.P. will be of importance to all physiotherapists and members are reminded to make timeous arrangements to attend.

The Receiver of Revenue has reacted positively to a memorandum on tax deductible expenses submitted by the Society and has referred the matter to the Standing Commission of Inquiry into the Taxation Policy of the Republic.

A number of papers for the next Congress of the World Confederation of Physical Therapy, to be held in Sweden in May 1982, have been provisionally accepted.

The Society wishes Miss Gwen Jones well in her retirement. It will be proposed by the National Executive Committee to Council that an Honorary Life Membership be bestowed on her, in acknowledgement of her service to the profession.

### BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE NEC REPORT AND THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

#### National Executive Committee:

A report giving a summary of the activities of the N.E.C. since April 1976, in regard to improving salary and career structure, was tabled. Various delegations have met with the Health Matters Advisory Committee, the Public Service Commission, further memoranda were submitted and finally members of the Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Radiography Societies met with representatives of the Department of Health and Public Service Commission to discuss the proposed revision of career structure and salary scales in detail. In April 1980, further discussions took place on the revised scales and conditions of service and comments were submitted to the Public Service Commission (now the Commission for Administration). A summary of the salary scales comparing 1976, 1979 and 1980 was tabled; it was heartening to note that the salary gaps were closing between the different race groups, that there were top posts for all groups and that the top scales were becoming more realistic. The minutes of a June 1980 meeting and a memorandum submitted in 1980 were also tabled.

#### Commission of Enquiry into Health Services in the Republic

Miss Irwin-Carruthers has collated information for submission to the Brown Commission of Enquiry into Health Service in the Republic. This is a very extensive document covering all aspects of physiotherapy such as its expanding rôle, the legal position of the physiotherapist, training and academic status, salary and career structure of the clinical physiotherapist, e.g. in the Department of Health, in the Defence Force, National Education, Provincial Authorities, post structure, optimal case loading, overtime, post occupancy, etc. Private practice, study opportunities and Physiotherapy Assistants were also noted. The document will be supported by several addenda. Some information was still being awaited before the document would be complete for submission to the Commission.

#### Departmental Assistants

There was report back from action that had taken place at the Transvaal Provincial Administration and Cape Provincial Administration levels respectively. This matter had been discussed at all levels of the South

African Medical and Dental Council. Professional training is now at such a high level, that a lower level worker has become essential. S.A.M.D.C. will be discussing a method of registration which will affect all supplementary health professionals. There was a long discussion on how this should be implemented and the problems that could arise. Most felt that direct supervision and guidance should be clearly spelt out and the establishment of district physiotherapy posts should be clarified and implemented before Departmental Assistants were introduced in the rural areas. It was also felt that there was a large potential work force in married physiotherapists who do not find part-time work financially rewarding at the moment.

### Sports Medicine

A document proposing the formation of The South African Association for Sports Medicine and Exercise Science was tabled. It stressed that sport was becoming a more important aspect of community life and four major areas of scientific interest were identified. These stressed the need for increased applied scientific knowledge and research; the use of physical activity to promote physical health, mental well-being and activity of all members of the community; the use of carefully prescribed exercise programmes for rehabilitation in a variety of special and mental illness; prevention of and correct management and rehabilitation of sports injuries. It is apparent that these scientific interests will involve several disciplines and that such an association can co-ordinate all activities preventing under-utilization in some areas and duplication of research in other areas. In discussion it became clear that physiotherapists should be actively involved in this area and it was suggested that representatives in the various areas be chosen to participate and thus make known what physiotherapy does and can do in this field.

### Physiotherapy in Psychiatry

The S.A.M.D.C. forwarded a copy of a letter from the Director-General, Department of Health, Welfare and Pensions, which stated that the Department is experiencing difficulty in recruiting physiotherapists for service in psychiatric hospitals, and to care for the mentally retarded and spastic patients. It was felt that a course in psychiatry should be introduced in the under-graduate training. In discussion it was made clear that the lack of staff was not unique to the Department of Health, but was closely tied up with poor salary and career structures. It was also felt that specialisation in psychiatric work would be more suitable as a post-graduate training. Aspects of this work covered in under-graduate training were outlined, such as visits to the various institutes and participation in class work as well as treatment of patients with spasticity and mental retardation. It was felt that it would be useful if the Department of Health, Welfare and Pensions could institute a course available to physiotherapists, preferably after hours.

### Post-Registration Courses

Discussion of ways and means of establishing courses on ergonomics were discussed at length. It was felt that physiotherapists in this country needed to acquire in-depth knowledge of this subject before much advance will be made in establishing occupational health physiotherapy or industrial physiotherapy. Several suggestions were put forward and a report from Mrs. Jaholkowski on occupational physiotherapy is awaited. It was also decided to go forward to arrange baby courses by Miss Mary Quinton for 1983 and possibly to get Miss Victoria Davey, an Australian physiotherapist who is an expert on rehabilitation in hand surgery, out in 1981.

### International Year of the Disabled Person

An ad hoc co-ordinating committee under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Lennard has been established to co-ordinate all activities for the International Year of the Disabled Person in 1980. Some activities already being

planned were outlined by members from the Orange Free State, Western Province and the Transvaal. It was envisaged that a series of bulletins on what the Central Committee is doing will be issued and that the Branches will be encouraged to implement this throughout the country. It was also strongly stressed that they report back to the co-ordinating committee what is being done and let the committee have any other suggestions. It was felt that cover by the media could publicise these activities although the media are more interested in specific cases. A national slogan could also be used. Other ideas such as posters with photos in libraries, shopping centres, etc., were put forward. Delegates were asked to take all these ideas back to their Branches and Groups and to forward any other ideas to the co-ordinating committee.

### THE REPORT FROM THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR PHYSIOTHERAPY

(Read by Mrs. M. Levy, Chairman of the Board)

The report of the 17th meeting held in August 1980 in Johannesburg was presented at the meeting of the newly constituted S.A.M.D.C. in October in Bloemfontein. At the end of June 1980, there were 1 780 registered physiotherapists. The minimum standard for degree courses in training physiotherapists has now been accepted by the Council for recognition for registration purposes of degree courses offered by South African universities, whilst the revised syllabus and examination format for the Pretoria College of Physiotherapy was accepted for registration of diploma courses in physiotherapy. The Board now awaits the submission by the Society of the minimum standards for training in physiotherapy for recognition for registration purposes, regardless of whether a degree or a diploma is involved. Final year examinations at the Universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch will be inspected this year. The recognition of a degree course in physiotherapy at the Medical University of Southern Africa (Medunsa) for registration purposes was agreed to in principle, pending the receipt of further information regarding the syllabus. Comment was invited from the Society on the introduction of a course of Psychiatry (theory and practical), with special application to the practice of physiotherapy. Comment is also awaited from the Society on any amendments to the criteria for recognition of additional qualifications. The M.Sc. (Physiotherapy) of the University of the Orange Free State and a diploma in Respiratory Physiotherapy, University of Durban-Westville were added to the list of additional qualifications registrable by physiotherapists. Although no further action has been taken on the synonymous terms "Physiotherapy" and "Physical Therapy" the Council agreed to recommend to the Minister that the regulation be promulgated declaring that the names "Physical Therapy" and "Physical Therapist" may not be used in terms of Section 40 (c) of the Act. The Board still awaits further comments from the Society on employing authorities for registered physiotherapists. As certain members of the Council were not satisfied with the list of drugs, administered by physiotherapists, submitted by the Society, it was agreed that a delegation from the Professional Board discuss the matter with the Medicines Control Council. The Board recommended a further amendment to the rule 21 of the Ethical Rules to read as follows: "21 (1) The treatment of any patient unless that patient has been referred by a registered medical practitioner or a registered dentist or in close co-operation with a registered practitioner or except in an emergency". The matter is still under consideration.

The matter of introductory circulars distributed by physiotherapists was referred back to the Society by the Board when the Council did not approve of the principle. The Society will forward its motivation to the next Board.

The Registration of Physiotherapy Assistants is receiving the attention of the Department of Health and the Executive Committee of the Medical Council as it concerns all the Supplementary Health Service Professions and the whole structure of medical services. The final attempt to register all practising "Physiotherapists" according to the Amendment of the Medical Act in May 1980 is now under way. An oral and/or practical examination as referred to in Section 33 (3) will probably be conducted early in 1981. A memorandum from the Occupational Therapy Board on the overlap between the professions of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy was tabled. It was of the opinion that the Executive Committees of the respective Boards should meet, but the Physiotherapy Board felt it should be referred back to the professions. This matter will now be sent to the N.E.C. for discussion.

A Tariffs Committee has been established with Professor H. Shapiro as the Chairman. A Government Gazette Notice was published on 12 September requesting representations before 12 October. The Society submitted these, drawn up by the Private Practitioners' Association, to whom a vote of thanks should be recorded for their comprehensive presentation. All representations received will be interchanged and studied before the first meeting of the Tariffs Committee which will be held on 24 November 1980.

#### **Matters Arising from the Report from the Professional Board**

Comments made by the Lecturer's Group will be forwarded to the Board on additional registrable qualifications. All physiotherapists were requested to submit information on the different employment authorities.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT** (presented by Miss E. Botting, Acting General Treasurer)

Mrs. E. Victor has been co-opted onto the Finance Committee. The Financial Statement for 1979-1980 was not yet available but will be included with Council papers. In response to a query regarding the aims and objectives of the P.P.K. Fund, the Committee stated the following: The P.P.K. Fund is used for all expenses of the South African Society of Physiotherapy which are not directly connected with the day to day running of the Society, such as salaries, stationery, subscriptions and donations and general maintenance. Travelling expenses of the N.E.C. members to N.E.C./N.R.C. meetings and N.E.C. expenses at Council Meetings are also paid from the General Account. It is policy for the P.P.K. to use, where possible, only money earned by investments, in other words, interest, and not to touch our capital in order to build up and conserve reserves. Examples were given of instances where the P.P.K. fund has been used: Grants and loans to Groups and individual members for attendance at study tours, overseas congresses and special post-registration courses; visiting lecturers' fares, fees and expenses, though these should be self supporting or even make a profit; official representatives of the S.A.S.P. who attend congresses or meetings at the Society's request, expenses of speakers or voting delegates attending W.C.P.T. meetings and congresses; post-registration courses organised by Branches and Groups of the S.A.S.P. — profit or loss to be divided on a 20 to 80% basis, the 80% accruing to the organiser of the course.

The P. P. K. Fund receives an allocation from all membership fees. Branches were requested to make their two yearly pro rata payments for N.E.C. and N. C. R. members' travelling expenses.

Mrs. J. Edeling received a loan of R500 to assist with expenses while reading a paper at the Meeting of the I.F.O.M.T. in New Zealand, and Miss H. C. Watts received a grant of R250 and a loan of R500 to attend several courses on Adult Hemiplegia in the U.K. in 1981.

Since the 20/80% agreement has been made the P.P.K. has received R1 151 to date, there having been no losses from any courses organised either by the Branches or N.E.C.

#### **EDITORIAL BOARD REPORT** (read by Mrs. J. A. C. Gilder)

Miss Irwin-Carruthers has completed the cardex system of all addresses for circulation and would appreciate it if Branch secretaries, who are now responsible for student members of their Branch, would *urgently* forward student addresses to her. The Journal Treasurer, Miss Chatterton, is still trying to complete two sets of back copies of the Journal for binding. Some have already been bound in leather and the Editorial Board agreed to bind the second set in leather too. Branches and Groups were reminded to let the Treasurer have the Journal's share of advertising in Branch Newsletters. The Journal still urgently requires a representative in the Reef area to contact prospective advertisers. The new advertising rates for 1981 were tabled and will appear in the December issue of the Journal. Most of the December 1980 issue was at press at the time and special thanks was expressed to Miss Runnalls for a major contribution in putting together issues in 1980. The following themes are planned for 1981 and members are invited to submit papers: Education, Keeping in Touch (Congress), Children at Risk and The Disabled. The Balance Sheet for 1979-1980 and the Auditors' report was tabled.

#### **APPOINTMENTS INFORMATION SECRETARY** (read by Miss Priscilla Blake)

Enquiries received have been mainly in connection with employment in South Africa and have come from countries such as the U.K., Germany, Holland, Austria, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand. A sheet giving information on central employing bodies, registration with S.A.M.D.C. and work permit requirements has been updated and is sent to people who enquire after employment. Working conditions in Provincial Hospitals and the upgraded salary scales have also been included in this sheet.

#### **REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SUB-COMMITTEES:**

##### **The Activations Committee** (read by Mrs. Lennard)

This committee was convened in 1975 to improve communication between physiotherapists within the Society and between the Society and the outside world. Attention has been given to many aspects of physiotherapy, including the involvement of pre-clinical and clinical students in the affairs of the Society. Various ways of involving students in the Society were suggested earlier on, as well as ways of encouraging newly qualified physiotherapists to join the Society. A questionnaire sent to students this year showed that many of these suggestions were implemented and also suggested that the Society should be even more actively involved in stimulating student interest in the Society. Public relations and the effective use of the media were also investigated by the committee. Branches and Special Interest Groups have reported to the Committee on their activities to publicise physiotherapy by means of "Open Days", "Career Days", lectures to different medical groups, student projects, etc. Workshops and multi-disciplinary presentations seem to be the most popular of group or Branch activities. Refresher courses also seem to be very popular but many more need to be organised in order to increase the number of practising physiotherapists. It is hoped that an even more positive approach will be adopted in promoting the International Year of the Disabled Person in 1981 and the International Year of the Aged in 1982. Several suggestions were made as to activities in which physiotherapists could participate to publicise the International Year of the Disabled Person in order to enhance

the integration of the disabled into the community. There was also discussion on the possibility of setting up a slide tape library with suggestions for possible topics but also caution as to the cost and problems in housing such a library.

#### **CONSTITUTION** (read by Miss Irwin-Carruthers)

A small working party has been looking at the Amendments to the Constitution and Bye-Laws of the Society and those of the Special Groups and Associations. It is hoped that the formidable list will be completed and included in the Agenda of the 14th National Council Meeting in March 1981. Matters such as the constitution of N.C.R. and N. E. C. sub-committees were investigated and standing committees (Finance Committee and Editorial Board), sub-committees and ad hoc committees of N.E.C. were identified; the revised constitutions of Groups/Associations were studied and comments were forwarded to these Groups; quorums at General and Branch Meetings, voting practice at Branches and the Financial Year were studied.

#### **REGISTRATION** (read by Miss de Bruin)

This Committee dealt with various applications for registration from countries such as Hungary, Poland, Belgium, USA, Hong Kong and Austria. The Professional Board for Physiotherapy has requested the Society to lay down minimal standards of training for the registration of physiotherapists, and it was felt that once this had been done the work of this committee would be much easier. Suggestions on the Criteria and Guidelines for the recognition of additional qualifications for registration by physiotherapists have been forwarded by the Branches and Special Groups. Another meeting of this Committee will be held in January to finalise any outstanding matters in time for the next Professional Board Meeting which will be held early in February 1981.

#### **REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE BRANCHES**

##### **Border** (read by Miss Pretorius)

This Branch consists of 22 members (1 Honorary Life Member, 6 non-practising and 15 practising members). Fifteen members are based in the East London area, whilst the rest come from a very widespread area. The A.G.M. was held on 6 August and there was discussion on physiotherapy aides and Private Practitioner's fees. The next meeting will be a Panel Discussion with a gynaecologist and some obstetric physiotherapists.

##### **Eastern Province** (read by Mrs. M. Butler):

This Branch has 35 members (8 non-practising, and 27 practising). The A.G.M. was held in July and Mrs. Woods was elected Chairman, Mrs. Kirkby as Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Bolton as Treasurer and Mrs. Butler as Secretary. Two courses were held during the last six months: Miss Runnals dealt with Maitland manipulation of the knee and Mr. Rogers with the use of dyadynamics, interferential therapy and trans-cutaneous nerve stimulation. At monthly meetings, Mrs. Horak (a radiographer) covered new procedures used in nuclear medicine and diagnostic and therapeutic radiography, and Miss Sally Eager spoke on sports injuries and their treatment. Several members attended the Congress held by the South African Association for Sport and Recreation. A course on Chest Physiotherapy and the use of stethoscopes and interpretation of chest X-rays will be given by Mrs. C. Tyrrell of Groote Schuur Hospital in November.

##### **Goldfields:** (read by Mrs. Potter)

The Branch A. G. M. was held in August and a lecture on intensity duration graphs in October. Mrs. Colleen Simpson and Mrs. Jeanette Fourie have joined the Branch and Miss Christa Hauser transferred from Western Province.

##### **Natal Coastal:** (read by Mrs. J. Morton)

This Branch has had a very active six months. Mrs. H. Tarr (physiotherapist), gave a resumé of the treatment of neurological disorders. In June Mr. C. Kaplan (orthopaedic surgeon), spoke on the use of electric stimulation of bone in non-union. Dr. E. MacSearraigh (physician), gave an informal talk on "Headaches I have known", in July. Mr. Hancock (orthopaedic technician), dealt with Orthotics and Prosthetics in August. In September Dr. Abramowitz, skin specialist, Miss Jones (physiotherapist) and Miss Jackson (beautician), covered skin conditions in a panel discussion. In November, Dr. Noakes of Cape Town and Miss S. Eager (physiotherapist) talked on sports injuries. A most successful refresher course was organised in July. Six new members have joined the Branch whilst two have transferred to other Branches. A Branch of the Hospital Group has been convened and an informal research group set up.

##### **Natal Midlands**

This Branch now has 34 members, 24 practising, 8 non-practising, 1 permanently abroad and 1 Honorary Life Member. Three members were transferred to the Branch, three new members joined and one member moved to another Branch, another one resigned. A multi-disciplinary symposium on the Total Management of Stroke was chaired by Dr. Gibb and included as speakers, Dr. Downie Campbell (Physician), Sister M. Bright (Nursing Sister), Mrs. Van Blerk (Physiotherapist), Mrs. Steinhordt (Occupational Therapist), Mrs. Clarke (Speech Therapist), and Mrs. Mitchell (Welfare Officer).

The Branch was also invited to attend a film show and Discussion on Cardiac Rehabilitation by Dr. Tim Noakes, a lecture on Rheumatology by Dr. Dixon from the U.K. and the 12th C.M.E. Congress given by the Inland Branch where Mrs. Bailey presented a talk on hamstring injuries. The New Office Bearers are as follows:

Honorary President: Dr. P. Thompson.  
Chairman: Mrs. Parks.  
Vice Chairman: Mrs. Withers.  
Secretary: Mrs. Lencken.  
Treasurer: Mrs. Louw.  
P.R.O.: Mrs. Lief.

##### **Northern Cape:** (ready by Mrs. Maureen Klemp)

Membership is now 20 (12 practising and 8 non-practising). Meetings were held in May, July and September, with a lecture preceding the September meeting. Mrs. Klemp gave a lecture at a "Heart Symposium" held in Kimberley and the Annual General Meeting of the Branch was held in October. Problems still exist in creating a post in the Country districts. Physiotherapists cannot guarantee to fill a sessional post at R2,97 an hour since most would have to travel ± 20 kms a time to reach the hospital. If the salary were increased or travelling allowance was paid then it would be reconsidered.

##### **Northern Transvaal:** (read by Mrs. Yvonne Cohen)

At the A. G. M. in October 13 members were elected to the Executive Committee amongst others being the Chairman — Y. Cohen, Vice-Chairman — Y. v. d. Watt, Treasurer — N. de Necker, Assistant Treasurer — A. Neukirscher, Correspondence — D. Swart, Minute Secretary — D. Beukes and several additional members. The Honorary President is Dr. E. Hugo, Vice-Presidents Professor Bam and Dr. Brighton. Membership is as follows: Practising 181, non-practising 38, Honorary Life 3, Overseas 4, Students 94.

In May Professor Bam spoke on the Ageing Patient and the Physiotherapist. In June, The Helping Heart was covered and in August a symposium on Hand Splints had Miss R. de Villiers (Physiotherapist), Miss J. Farrell (Occupational Therapist) and Mr. Steyn (Orthotist) as speakers, whilst in September Dr. S. Brighton

dealt with interesting aspects of rheumatology. Individual members have also been very active in the Branch. Mrs. M. Pretorius gave a lecture-demonstration on relaxation and exercises for Geriatrics, Mrs. L. Geyser and Miss L. Lesch presented a lecture-demonstration on wheelchair preparedness for Spinal Patients at the Cripple Care Conference, Miss R. de Villiers spoke on the Physical Aspects of Ageing at the Symposium "The Assets of Advancing Years" held by the Soroptimist Club of Pretoria, Miss D. Swart spoke on Pneumatic Prostheses at the Annual Orthopaedic Congress, Mrs. E. Stock gave a lecture-demonstration on Physiotherapy in Chest Conditions at the Refresher Course for Home-Land Doctors held at Kalafong, the College students had an Open Day in October. The Committee is finalising arrangements for the Conference and Council Meeting to be held in March and a hearty invitation is extended to all to attend what the Branch hopes will be a successful and memorable occasion.

#### **Southern Orange Free State:** (read by Mrs. Utermöhlen)

At present Branch membership is as follows: 28 practising, 7 non-practising, 2 transferred to other Branches and one transferred from Southern Free State. During this period the Branch had several Executive Committee Meetings as well as Branch meetings often preceded by lectures such as that by Professor Pretorius on General Practice, Professor Snowdowne on the Latest Orthopaedic Attitude to low back pain and the highlight of the year was Miss Runnalls giving a Post-Graduate Course on the Maitland Techniques for knee and ankle joints, and finally a lecture by Professor Uys of Community Health Services on Changes in the Health System. A cheese and wine party was given for the final year students and the A.G.M. was to follow in November. The Branch has become very involved in the organisation of the International Year of the Disabled with Miss C. Eksteen as Chairlady of the Co-ordinating committee and Mrs. N. Lederle also on the committee.

#### **Southern Transvaal:** (read by Miss B. Weakley)

Branch membership stands at 435 qualified and 66 student members. Monthly Branch meetings have continued to be held and covered, for instance, Reconstructive Cosmetic Surgery and X-rays of the Lumbar Spine by Dr. H. Maxwell and Dr. B. Dubowitz respectively; Treatment of Paediatric Chest Conditions by Mrs. C. Eales and Miss J. Mason-Jones and demonstration of Pezzi ball exercises by Miss C. Siemers and Mrs. J. Marcus; newly qualified physiotherapists also gave information on some of their final year research projects covering some aspects of ultrasonic therapy and cryotherapy and a very interesting dissertation on Motivation. A stimulating Saturday morning Course on the Treatment of the Hip Joint was very well attended and members were also able to attend a workshop on the treatment of shoulder joint disorders arranged by the Hospital Group. Branch members assisted to publicize through press and radio two open days held at the Physiotherapy Department of the Johannesburg Hospital. The Executive Committee was re-elected en bloc and a student representative and other members will be co-opted if this proves necessary.

#### **Western Province Branch:** (read by Miss S. Wessels)

Total Branch Membership is 257 (4 Honorary Life, 202 full practising, 39 non-practising, 12 overseas members). At the annual General Meeting, Major General Neethling from the South African Police gave an interesting lecture on Forensic Science. Three Branch General and one Executive Committee Meeting was held and two lectures covered the following: Peripheral Nerve Lesions by Dr. L. K. Pretorius and the Latest trends in knee-surgery by Dr. J. P. van Vuuren. The future programme includes a workshop on "Post-operative knee exercises" to be held in December.

#### **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS/ASSOCIATIONS**

##### **Lecturers** (read by Mrs. J. Beenhakker)

Office Bearers of this Group are as follows: Chair-

man — Mrs. J. C. Beenhakker, Vice-Chairman — Mrs. A. McFarlane, Honorary Treasurer — Mrs. A. Stewart and Honorary Secretary — Miss S. Irwin-Carruthers. No meeting has been held in the period under review but progress has been made on the following activities:

Revised minimal standards for degree and diploma courses have been forwarded to the Professional Board and the Group is now assisting the Registration Committee in setting up minimal standards for the acceptance of overseas qualifications for registration; some suggested amendments to the criteria and guidelines for the registration of additional qualifications were tabled and it was noted that the Diploma in Respiratory Physiotherapy offered by the University of Durban-Westville has been accepted for registration by the S.A.M.D.C.; a B.Sc. (Med.) (Hons.) degree in Sports Science open to physiotherapists is being offered by the University of Cape Town and a system of accreditation of advanced clinical competence (American) is being investigated for accreditation of post-basic qualifications at present not registrable; the survey on the priorities in continuing physiotherapy education has given the predicted response of about 25%; the third issue of the newsletter on Education has been sent out by Pretoria Physiotherapy College; objectives and task descriptions for internal and external examiners have been circulated to members; the cost of training at the various training centres needs to be forwarded to the Secretary and the Group also assisted in setting up the proposed objectives and syllabus for training of physiotherapy assistants.

##### **Manipulative Therapists:** (read by Mrs. J. Edeling)

Twenty four participants in Johannesburg and 26 in the Cape have attended the 75 hour post-graduate course on Spinal and Peripheral Mobilisation and Manipulation. This course will not be offered in the Cape in 1981. The University of Stellenbosch is negotiating for a guest lecturer for a course on peripheral manipulation in 1982. The Group has expressed their extreme dissatisfaction to the Executive Committee of I.F.O.M.T. on the circumstances of the financial statement. A new constitution has been formulated. The Transvaal Branch has been operating for 2 years and has now been ratified. They are wished every success for the future. Mrs. P. Swilling is organising informal patient demonstration and discussion evenings in the Cape.

##### **National Hospital Group:** (read by Mrs. C. Bennetts)

This Group was active in the Transvaal only for the first 4 years, but now Branches have been established in Natal and the Cape. The Seminar on Marketing by Professor Sandra van der Merwe and her husband Andre, will take place on 20 and 21 March 1981. Dr. Kotze will talk to the Group at its A.G.M. on Motivation and Staff Establishment. The memorandum on the employment of Departmental aids has been sent to the relevant authorities. A small sub-group of cardiac/pulmonary physiotherapists has been formed under the auspices of the N.H.G. The constitution will have to be reviewed to incorporate the Branches and sub-groups. At two meetings of the Transvaal Branch they heard about "Acid base physiology for the physiotherapist" from Mr. du Plessis and the Management of Pressure Sores by a physiotherapist from Natalspruit Hospitals.

##### **Obstetric Association:** (read by Mrs. M. Pretorius)

Three Committee meetings were held during this period. A course on mobilization of the lumbar and pelvic joints using Maitland techniques which ran over three weekends in April and May was most successful. Distribution of the 1980 register of practising obstetric physiotherapists is almost complete. Two newsletters were sent to all O.A. members during this period. An informal lecture by Dr. J. Adno on "Women Participating in Sport during Pregnancy and the Post-Partum period" was held in Johannesburg in September.