

Old Students Union and Re-union

A meeting to inaugurate an old students union will be held in the Physiotherapy School on Saturday, September 3rd at 1 p.m.

PROGRAMME:

- 1.00—Lunch.
2.30—Inaugural Meeting.

Will all past students kindly notify the Principal of the School not later than August 22nd:—

- (a) If they wish to join the union;
- (b) If they will be attending the meeting;
- (c) If they will be present for the lunch.

In replying past students are asked to give where possible home and work addresses and if married maiden names.

Past Students News

Renee Spence (née du Preez) is in London has a baby daughter. Jill Dickenson (née Melville) has returned from Britain with her daughter.

We offer our congratulations to Miss A. Petrick, Dip. Physio.(Pretoria), for winning the De Bruyn Medal for distinction in Anatomy as a First Year Nurse.

Miss Bodoano and Miss Savin will be in England from June 18th to August 4th, and look forward to meeting some of the past students from the Pretoria School, they should contact Miss Savin at 16 Nottingham Place, London W.1, (Miss D. Allen for telephone number).

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN.

Department of Physiotherapy.



University of Cape Town.

Physiotherapy Students receive instruction in Massage from Miss M. Roper—Principal of the School.

45 students are now registered for the Course—18 First Year, 16 Second Year and 11 Third Year. The Paget Shield donated by Mr. V. Lerm of Stellenbosch for the best Second Year student has been awarded to Miss J. J. van Winsen.

The new Clinic is being used all day by Third and Second Year students for individual and group treatments, the Third Years working in the morning on traumatic and more acute cases, the Second Years in the afternoon on simpler treatments for more chronic conditions. A considerable number of hemiplegics are sent for treatment and these are responding well to group therapy and rather "amateurish" techniques are being worked out by the staff from literature on the subject, and we all wish we had more experience in these methods and would welcome practical

information and instruction on the subject.

The Second and Third Year students also attend the Orthopaedic Out-Patients and Teaching Clinics. They give instruction on the spot to patients requiring plaster drill, etc. The Third Year students continue to attend the Maternity Hospital and have started to gain experience in exercises in water, under Miss Burke and her staff at the Princess Alice Home, Retreat, where two pools have recently been installed.

The number of "In" and "Out" patient cases treated by the students rose to 3,628 in March, 1960.

Physiotherapy staff is still short. The present members, including Miss Dugmore who is in charge of the Clinic, are all working very hard. The teaching establishment allows for 3 teachers of Physiotherapy, and one Physiotherapist holding a Diploma in Physical Education. At present only two of the teaching posts are occupied, one by myself and one by Miss M. R. White, whose experience in thoracic treatments is proving most valuable. Miss C. Junack is taking some classes in therapeutic movement, as well as physical education. She also organises the group treatments. Both she and Miss White assist Miss Dugmore in supervising the treatments in the Out-Patients Clinic and pay occasional visits to the Wards at Groote Schuur Hospital. However, the main burden of supervision of ward treatments falls on the physiotherapists on Miss Sutherland's staff at the Hospital, and the School is more than grateful for the essential work they are doing with both the Second and Third Year students.

The big event of the year will be in June, when the first nine candidates will sit for an examination in Physiotherapy, i.e. Part II of the Diploma in Physiotherapy. Miss Angela Bodoano and Miss Jean Blair have consented to act as external examiners, and we anticipate their visit with mixed feelings! We will enjoy seeing them, but hope they will not find us falling short of the high standards necessary.

MARGARET H. S. ROPER, M.C.S.P.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I have read with considerable interest in the March issue of the *S.A. Journal of Physiotherapy*, a resumé of a talk given by Dr. Norman Klass, to the Southern Transvaal Branch, on his impressions of Physiotherapy gained in a recent trip abroad.

Dr. Klass apparently had quite an extensive tour, visiting Israel, Turkey, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Scandinavia and finally England.

In describing the Physiotherapy Treatments he saw in all these countries, Dr. Klass does not omit to compare them with his impressions of Physiotherapy in England, and always to the detriment of the English Physiotherapist, he seems so eager to disparage the standard of Physiotherapy in England, and the members of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, that he even goes to the length of quoting a scathing remark (his own words) of what a Physical Medicine Specialist (unnamed) is supposed to have said about the teachers and examiners of that body.

It leads one to think that Dr. Klass' companion and guide in England, where he tells me he spent 7 weeks, was someone also ignorant of the history and work of the C.S.P., and whose experience in the field of Physiotherapy was limited to one small area, or possibly one hospital. Perhaps if Dr. Klass had had more time at his disposal he might have visited many more hospitals in London, and also some in the provinces, then his impressions might have been very different.

Perhaps no one has told Dr. Klass that the Physio School

in Israel is only one of many that was started and established by one of the despised teachers of the C.S.P., and the present Principal, although an ex-student of Wits., owes something to the training she received in England at one of the C.S.P. Schools.

Not only Israel but India, Pakistan, Greece, China, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa owe nearly all they have in the field of Physiotherapy to the Chartered Physiotherapist of Great Britain. I should like to take this opportunity of paying tribute to the C.S.P., for the work it has done throughout the world, and the loyalty of so many of its members, who for years and years sacrifice time and leisure, and work to the limit of their endurance to maintain the high standards of Physiotherapy which is recognised at international level.

It is interesting to note that while the English Physiotherapist is prepared to give so much to the profession, it is difficult to find after over 20 years of established training even a few South African Physiotherapists who are prepared to make the sacrifices entailed in taking up teaching in the profession. At present Physiotherapy training in this country is almost entirely maintained by a handful of C.S.P. Teachers.

While realising that Dr. Klass in his address aimed at stimulating the Physiotherapists to equip themselves to meet the demands of the present times, with its rapid advances in medicine and surgery and the modern approach to re-habilitation, he could perhaps have omitted the petty shafts, and given us something more constructive and encouraging.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) A. M. Bodoano, M.C.S.P.,
Principal,

Pretoria Hospital School of Physiotherapy.

The Editor.

Dear Madam,

I was interested in the article by a "Foundation Member of the Earliest days of our Society" in the current number of *Physiotherapy* as it carried me back to my early days out here. I came in 1921 to work in Holy Cross Mission Hospital, Pondoland. I was a member of the C.S.T.M. in England and had done a good deal of massage.

I came out as housekeeper and to help the doctor generally. It was all pioneer work and very varied and interesting though I did not get much massage.

I joined the S. African Society as soon as I heard about it. I believe in those early days there were hardly any trained masseuses. I have always taken a great interest in the Society and after reading the article feel I would like to add my congratulations to the wonderful way it has grown.

My massage days are over and I live in a Home for Old People, but I am grateful to whoever it is that sends me a copy of the Journal.

Yours sincerely,

E. D. M. Farewell,
Bizweni, Whites Road,
Grahamstown.

The Editor,

The Orthopaedic Surgeon who referred Mr. McLeod to me for treatment has read his notes in our Journal. He found the account most interesting but points out that two of Mr. McLeod's statements are not accurate. I felt that I should bring same to your notice.

(1) *Cervical Sympathectomy.*

Mr. McLeod states that this operation was performed on him. This is not correct, as had it been done, he would not have been subject to profuse sweating attacks.

He was operated on by a Neuro Surgeon but the exact nature of the operation is not known to me.

(2) *Diagnosis Unknown.*

When Mr. McLeod was sent to me, I was informed that a state of Hyperirritability of the Cervical Sympathetics was causing his Cranial and Brachial symptoms. This had not been explained to him and therefore he concluded that the diagnosis was not known, which was not the case.

It may be of interest to record that Mr. McLeod was the second case sent to me by the same Surgeon, who was suffering as a result of hyperirritability of the Cervical Sympathetics. Like the first patient was in very great distress, and she had also had a large amount of numerous and varied treatments, which had not given any real relief.

The treatment given to her was of the same nature as Mr. McLeod's, and like him she was eventually cured.

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