

EDITORIAL

In the Press recently there was a report of the Editorial in the *S.A. Nursing Journal*. From this report we learnt that there appeared to be a lack of understanding between nurses, occupational therapists and physiotherapists. It was implied that a certain amount of professional jealousy crept into the matter and that one branch looked down on another.

Surely this is a gross misrepresentation of the whole approach. How could such remarkable results have been achieved over the last years if we did not all pull together?

However there probably is a certain amount of misunderstanding which can easily be cleared up. This can best be done by a better knowledge of each others training and capabilities.

The South African Council of Paramedical Professions has been aiming at this through the years by arranging clinical meetings when the various paramedical professions have demonstrated to their colleagues, either special features of their own work or something of the scope of their field of work. Symposia have been arranged when all the members of PARAMED have joined together to show how they work as a team for the benefit of the patient. This was carried one step further just recently in Johannesburg when the S.A. Nursing Council arranged a Symposium "Teamwork in the Hospital for the Patient". At this gathering a nurse, a radiographer, a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist all contributed a paper.

Such demonstrations and discussions are important in the spreading of knowledge, but the most important thing is the working together in actual practice. Nurses, by very virtue of the fact that they have charge of, or authority over the patient for 24 hours a day feel that the patient "belongs" to them. Meanwhile the close relationship which develops between the physiotherapist and the patient necessarily creates a strong bond and feeling of confidence between the patient and the therapist. This is important in achieving the maximum results and the therapist naturally looks upon the patient as "my patient". By developing a good relationship between the nurse and the therapist the patient will benefit to the utmost.

The nurse should understand fully what the physiotherapist is aiming for and how the physiotherapist is trying to achieve those aims. On the other hand consideration for the nurse and her routine and duties must be shown and recognition of the responsibilities that rest on her shoulders must be fully realized. Already in some of the South African training schools physiotherapists and nurses are receiving reciprocal lectures to their mutual benefit. This has also been carried forward to lectures for medical and paramedical students, which is another important link in "teamwork" for the future. Together the paramedical and nursing services can achieve great things for the most important member of the team "The Patient".

Contents

	Page
Teamwork in the Hospital	5
Causes, Effects and Bronchial Secretions	6
"Breathing Exercises—please"	9
W.C.P.T.	11
An Alternative to an Artificial Hand	13
General	14
Branch News	15
Students' Column	16
Vacancies	17