

OBITUARY

MRS. ANGELA DEACON (née BODOANO)

M.C.S.P. Dip T.P.

Angela Deacon, better known to her many students in South Africa as Miss Bodoano, died on 5th January 1981 aged 79 years.

Angela's physiotherapy career was a long and dedicated one, beginning way back in 1929 at Manchester Royal Infirmary. We remember her as Principal of Pretoria College of Physiotherapy, which post she held from 1957 to 1963. Angela, though retiring by nature, considerate and helpful to all, was just the right person for Pretoria at that stage of its development. She brought her experience and determination and her great belief in the future of Physiotherapy, and quietly but efficiently guided Pretoria College of Physiotherapy in its early days.

In 1963 Angela retired from the physiotherapy scene to marry a life-long friend, Clifford Deacon. She became a proud housewife and keen gardener like her husband and they shared 17 happy years.

In 1979 they paid a short visit to South Africa and it was lovely to see them both. Unfortunately they were beginning to feel their age and were not able to travel much in this vast land, consequently Angela did not see everyone she would have wished to see.

We will miss you Angela and our sincere sympathy to Clifford.

A fund is to be opened in memory of Miss Bodoano. Anyone wishing to contribute should send a cheque (payable to Angela Bodoano Memorial Fund) to

Miss M. H. Hoyle MCSP.,
Physiotherapy Department,
Salford Royal Hospital,
Chapel Street,
SALFORD T6 6GEP.

B.L.

MISS MARGARET H. S. ROPER

Physiotherapy in South Africa has lost a great friend and valiant teacher in the death of Margaret Roper.

Before coming to South Africa to set up the Department of Physiotherapy at the University of Cape Town she had had a distinguished career in her chosen profession in Britain. She contributed much to the development of physiotherapy at a time when it was emerging from the Massage and Swedish Remedial Exercises era towards a dynamic and scientifically based profession.

She was a disciple of, and collaborator with, Mrs. Guthrie Smith, who added Suspension Therapy to our syllabus and whose book "Rehabilitation, Re-education and Remedial Exercises" became one of the physiotherapist's foremost textbooks. Later Miss Roper and Miss Hollis brought this book up to date in the volume "Suspension Therapy in Rehabilitation".

Margaret Roper held some of the foremost posts in Physiotherapy in the U.K., being Head of the School of Physiotherapy at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle-on-Tyne in the late 1940's. In the early 1950's she was on the Headquarters staff of the C.S.P. in charge of Post Graduate Education. It was at that time that post-graduate courses became popular and physiotherapy started to move forward into the new era of scientifically based movement techniques which have been progressing ever since.

This was a tremendous challenge to Margaret

and brought out all her powers of planning and organisation and resulted in an excellently designed and equipped Department of Physiotherapy with spacious gymnasiums and practical rooms for both teaching students and treating patients. U.C.T. was indeed fortunate in finding someone of Margaret Roper's calibre; with her drive and determination she set the teaching Department of Physiotherapy at U.C.T. on firm foundations and guided training of students into ways where tradition was married to enquiring and forward looking thought and investigation.

Anyone who has had dealings with Margaret Roper will remember her, her personality was not one to be forgotten. She was a lover of life and enjoyed all the good things of life in South Africa to the full. Swimming, walking and mountain climbing all gave her great pleasure and I am sure that those of us who were there will never forget how she celebrated her 60th birthday — by climbing to the top of the newly installed ropes in the gymnasium.

I feel she could be called one of the pioneers of physiotherapy in South Africa. Strange that she and another of the pioneers in this country, Angela Bodoano, should have died within 6 weeks of each other. They were two grand campaigners. Perhaps I can bracket those two together and say we remember them with pride. Two grand old ladies.

M.R.W.