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**EDITORIAL**

In March at the distribution of the diplomas to the Pretoria graduates, the guest speaker, stimulated at least the more senior members of the Physiotherapy profession to rise as a body in answer to some of his provocative statements.

We are all in agreement that the integration of health services in this country would be of the greatest benefit to all. Why should rehabilitation centres be divorced from hospitals and split up between agencies such as the W.C.A. and the Department of Labour?

However, wherever these Rehabilitation centres are established and by whomever they are administered, physiotherapists will be needed to work in them. It is no use surely, to train people to be purely technicians, capable of working only under supervision in a Hospital department or Rehabilitation centre.

No doctor or nurse is trained only for hospital work. Whether they spend the rest of their days in hospital or private practice is their own concern, but at the end of their initial training they are prepared so that they can branch out into any field they choose. In these Rehabilitation centres and Hospital departments all types of cases are met with, so therefore students must be prepared to handle a wide variety of cases. Instead of shortening the training period, there are many who feel that more time is required to give the students the thorough background in theory and practice which is needed for the high standard that the Physiotherapy profession demands. Specialize they may, later, but first let them have the opportunity of a sound basic training. We do

not aim at turning out specialist physiotherapists but rather physiotherapists who can direct their knowledge along various channels or cope with whatever comes to a busy department.

For all this training, teachers are necessary. It is required that those who teach physiotherapists must be trained teachers, holding for example the Teachers Certificate of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, London, or a similar certificate of equal standard. In the medical profession doctors are not required to hold a teaching certificate but nurses are; for example the Sister Tutors who have a specialised course after their general nursing training. Here lies the difficulty where physiotherapists are concerned, for nowhere in S.A. is it possible to take a teachers certificate in Physiotherapy; it costs money and time to send a physiotherapist over-seas to do a two years course.

It is not a question of "students qualifying under sufferance" when they say they would like to teach, but rather a question of no proper facilities to encourage a physiotherapist to obtain a teaching certificate.

Physiotherapy in hospitals has developed tremendously during the last decade and we must move with the times. It is senseless to curtail the curriculum of a training school for physiotherapy, it is senseless to turn out technicians with a shorter basic training and thus lower the standard of our profession, when we are being accepted more and more as an integral and respected member of the medical services.