

June 1, 1947

The Honorable Preston Lane
Governor of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

Sir:

As director of the Physical Therapy Department at the Children's Hospital School, I am vitally concerned in the problem of the appointments to the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, as created under the Physical Therapy Act, signed by you on May seventh, of this year.

I have been employed at the Children's Hospital School for the past twenty-seven years, and since 1931, I have in addition supervised the Physical Therapy work with the Baltimore City School Board. My wife, Florence P. Kendall was supervisor of Physical Therapy with the Maryland State Department of Health from 1936 to 1944. In addition we have both acted as volunteer consultants with the Army in their physical therapy program for the Amputees, and assisted materially in writing a Manual, entitled "Physical Therapy for Lower Extremity Amputees", published under the direction of the Surgeon General's Office.

In view of my experience and contact with Physical Therapy in its various phases, I feel that the following pertinent facts should be brought to your attention:

1. Physical Therapy is recognized by the American Medical Association as a part of Physical Medicine. To assure adequately trained personnel engaging in the practice of Physical Therapy, the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association, has approved certain schools for training Physical Therapists. A list of these approved schools is enclosed.
2. Nation-wide publicity of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Veteran's Administration, Army, and Navy, during the last few years has emphasized the part Physical Therapy plays in the treatment of infantile paralysis, nerve injuries, fractures and various types of war injuries. The result of this publicity has been the springing-up of so-called Physical Therapy schools which offer diplomas certifying the holder as a "physis-therapist", in as brief a period as four weeks. Students for these courses are recruited through circulars similar to the three page circular attached. Such circulars are so worded that one classifies them with the type of schools (in other professions) which were long ago put out of existence by restrictive legislation as being contrary to the public policy of most States.

3. The State of Connecticut, which is the only other state having similar Physical Therapy legislation, has treated the matter purely as a public health measure, and has appointed a Board of Physical Therapy Examiners consisting of five medical doctors.

I strongly urge that the three medical doctors recommended by the Maryland State Registry of Physical Therapists, and approved by the Physical Therapy Committee of the State Medical Society, be appointed to the Maryland Board of Examiners. Since a quorum may consist of three members, it is essential that to insure medical representation at all times, there be three medical doctors on the Board.

According to the ACT, the physical therapist treats only cases referred and diagnosed by a medical doctor; and it is therefore, most logical that the doctors pass on the qualifications of those to whom members of the medical profession expect to refer their cases.

Since the ACT refers by name to the two Physical Therapy organizations in the State, I further recommend that the remaining members of the Board be composed of a representative from each of these organizations.

This law, like the Medical Practice Act, is not for the benefit of the profession or its members, but is for the protection of the public health and welfare. I will not benefit personally either in matters of prestige, or financially, by your decision in regard to the Board, but I urge your careful consideration of these appointments entirely on the basis of my sincere interest in the welfare of the patients.

Should you so desire, I will be glad to appear personally or arrange to have a representative of the Medical & Chirurgical Faculty appear and give you any further information which would assist you in this matter.

I beg to remain

Yours faithfully,

Henry O. Kendall, Director
Physical Therapy Department

HOK/p