

about when they meet the boats of the member for Darling Range and others on the river.

Mr. CROMMELIN: I was in Aquarama this morning having a look at a boat. I do not see any more difficulty in going around a bend in the river than in hitting a tree.

Mr. May: A lot of people go around the bend.

Mr. CROMMELIN: I return to the point which I am endeavouring to make; that is, surely there are types of boats available today which can be driven at a reasonable speed. These would not have to be driven over 35 to 40 knots in order to compete with an M.T.T. bus. I admit that, at times, I find it very difficult to keep up with the M.T.T. buses on Stirling Highway; they certainly exceed the speed limit. I have not seen an M.T.T. bus stopped by the police yet, but perhaps they will be in the future.

On a boat which would carry possibly 60 passengers, the upkeep would be small as there are no tyres and the only costs involved are in engine repair and maintenance of the hull. I feel certain that at selected spots on the river where there is parking space available these boats could be brought into operation effectively and they could bring passengers from Fremantle to Perth for nearly the same price as the M.T.T., if not at a better price.

There would be only one point to consider. I mention that I asked this question 11 years ago, although at that time it was not in regard to boats on the river. At that stage I asked whether a bus could be made available to go from the council parking areas on a trip round town and drop off the people where they wanted to go. The same thing would be necessary if passengers were brought up the river by boat. They could be dropped at Barrack Street jetty and, perhaps, a single run in a bus could be included in the fare on the boat. I consider that if this proposal were adopted it would help considerably to save traffic congestion on the roads.

Let us face facts; traffic congestion will get worse and worse. Soon we will not be able to afford to park in the Perth City Council parking areas; and if we could leave our cars in parking areas along the river and journey up in a decent boat at a decent speed and at a reasonable price, surely this would help to solve the transport problem in this State.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. O'Connor (Minister for Transport).

House adjourned at 9.11 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 23rd August, 1967.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (11): ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

SHEEP FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Inspections for Burr Infestation

2. The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) Are sheep imported from South Australia inspected by an inspector approved by the Western Australian Department of Agriculture before leaving South Australia?
 - (2) Are such sheep again inspected on arrival at Parkeston?
 - (3) Is it correct that sheep that have been passed by the inspector in South Australia have subsequently been held at Parkeston for shearing because of suspected burr infestation or for any other reason?
 - (4) If the answer to (3) is "Yes," can the department state approximately the length of wool carried by these sheep?
 - (5) Is it considered that the inspection in South Australia is adequate?
 - (6) If so, why is it necessary to re-inspect the sheep at Parkeston, to the detriment of the sheep and at considerable increased cost to the owner when these sheep, inspected and passed in South Australia, are detained for shearing?
 - (7) Is it correct that a charge of 10c per head is made for the use of the shearing shed for each sheep shorn?
 - (8) Is it correct that sheep have been detained for considerable periods awaiting shearing, owing to inadequate facilities at Parkeston?
 - (9) (a) What was the total number of sheep imported from the Eastern States annually for each of the last three years; and
(b) how many sheep have arrived at Parkeston during the last two months?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Sheep imported from South Australia are inspected by officers of the South Australian Department of Agriculture with a view to issuing the certificate required by this State.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.

- (4) Sheep may be shorn at Parkes-ton—
 - (a) to remove noxious weed seeds;
 - (b) because the length of wool precludes effective inspection. Three-quarter inch is the maximum allowed.
- (5) Not entirely.
- (6) As the objective is to prevent weed introduction the critical inspection is on arrival. Weed seeds may be missed at the South Australian inspection or picked up in transit.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) There have been some delays with shearing at Parkes-ton. The facilities made available by the department are intended to meet emergencies and not large-scale shearing. If sheep conform to import requirements shearing is not necessary.
- (9) (a) 1964-65—309,620.
1965-66—317,286.
1966-67—324,261.
(b) June—17,600.
July—47,835.

ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL

Increase in Pensioner Inmates

3. The Hon. J. G. HISLOP asked the Minister for Health:
 - (1) What measures are being taken to meet the situation which is expected when the number of pensioners in the Royal Perth Hospital will rise to 65 per cent. of hospital inmates?
 - (2) Has an assessment of the added cost been made?
 - (3) Have any arrangements been made for the 15 per cent. paying inmates who would have normally been inmates of the Royal Perth Hospital?
 - (4) Where could these people look for accommodation?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Pensioners at the Royal Perth Hospital have consistently, for a number of years, occupied approximately just under 50 per cent. of the beds. There is no reason to expect a rapid increase to 65 per cent.
- (2) to (4) Not applicable.

LAND RELEASES

South and East of Yellowdine, and Palmer's Find Area

4. The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN asked the Minister for Mines:
In view of the tremendous agricultural development in Western

Australia, and the large number of applicants seeking land—

- (1) Is it the intention of the department to make land available for selection south and east of Yellowdine for wheat and sheep farming purposes?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "No", would the Lands Department have this land classified and make an early decision on the matter?
- (3) Has land in the Palmer's Find area ever been surveyed for the purpose of wheat and sheep farming?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) A soil survey to ascertain the agricultural potential of nearly 500,000 acres of Crown land north-east, east, and south-east of Southern Cross is at present being carried out and should be completed within 12 months. Land around Yellowdine is included in this soil survey.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) The southern section of the soil survey, comprising some 200,000 acres has Palmer's Find as its approximate centre.

DAIRY CATTLE COMPENSATION FUND

Allocations to Milk Board, and Cattle Industry Compensation Fund

5. The Hon. C. R. ABBEY asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) What was the amount utilised from the Dairy Cattle Compensation Fund when the Act was repealed in 1965, to build the new Milk Board administrative centre?
 - (2) What was the residue of moneys from this fund paid to the combined compensation fund under the Cattle Industry Compensation Act, 1965?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) \$63,309.
- (2) \$20,000.

6 and 7. *These questions were postponed.*

OFFSET TYPE EQUIPMENT

Government Printing Office, and Government Departments

8. The Hon. H. K. WATSON asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) Is the Government Printing Office equipped with printing equipment of the small offset type?
 - (2) What other Government departments or statutory boards have installed such printing equipment?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) Agriculture Department.
Crown Law Department.
Mines Department—Geological
Survey.
Registrar General.
Western Australian Government
Railways.
Fremantle Port Authority.
Leederville Technical School.
Library Board.
Metropolitan Transport Trust.
Perth Technical College.
Teachers' Training College.
State Electricity Commission.
Technical Extension Service.
University of Western Australia.
King Edward Memorial Hospital.

FATAL TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Number and Age Groups

9. The Hon. J. M. THOMSON asked the Minister for Mines:

For the period the 1st January, 1963, to date—

- (1) How many fatalities resulting from motor vehicle accidents have occurred on—
 - (a) country roads; and
 - (b) metropolitan roads?
- (2) How many were—
 - (a) under 21 years of age; and
 - (b) in the 21 to 26 years age group
 in each of the categories referred to in (1)?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) 604;
(b) 502.
- (2) (a) country 170;
metropolitan 139;
(b) country 92;
metropolitan 49.

HOSPITAL AT INGLEWOOD

Provision

10. The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) In view of the considerable area of land vacant and adjoining the Home of Peace Hospital in Inglewood, has the Government given consideration to the building of a general public hospital on this site?
- (2) If so, when can it be expected that such building would commence?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) It is not intended to build a public hospital on this site, which is insufficient in area for that purpose in any event. The Home of Peace intends to expand its services. Furthermore there are proposals by the Slow Learning Children's Group to establish in this

area facilities for mentally retarded children, so that the site referred to by the honourable member will be well and adequately occupied.

VETERINARY SCIENCE COURSE

Provision at Institute of Technology

11. The Hon. C. R. ABBEY asked the Minister for Mines:

In view of reports of considerable costs in establishing a veterinary school at the University of Western Australia, and apparent difficulties in gaining support from the Universities Commission in this matter, will the Minister advise if it would be possible to provide facilities for a course in veterinary science at the new Institute of Technology?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The provision of a course in veterinary science at the Institute of Technology will be considered when the report of the Committee on Tertiary Education has been submitted.

BILLS (2): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), and read a first time.

2. Dentists Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Health), and read a first time.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 22nd August.

THE HON. E. M. HEENAN (Lower North) [4.49 p.m.]: The Minister mentioned that the proposals in this Bill have been supported by the Crown Law Department and the Law School of the University of Western Australia; and have been accepted by the Barristers' Board. I am, therefore, in very good company when giving the measure my full support. The Minister also mentioned that the proposals, if accepted, will assist recruitment to both the Commonwealth and State legal services; and will assist the Law School in placing its graduates in articles. I think both of these claims are justified and meritorious.

Dealing with the Commonwealth and State legal services, I am sure all will agree it is essential that these be maintained at a high level. The recruitment of capable young law graduates from our University to these services is one certain way of ensuring that this high level is

maintained. The proposed amendment to section 10 will simply mean that both Commonwealth and State legal services will be able to take more graduates as articulated clerks than they can do under the Act as it stands. The amendment to section 10 is the main proposal in the Bill.

The amendment to section 15, dealing with graduates from other universities, will apply only in a few small instances, and I do not propose to deal with it beyond giving it my support.

Before sitting down it might be interesting for me to mention that the normal way whereby a young man or woman now enters the legal profession in Western Australia is per medium of the University. Way back in either 1926 or 1927, I think it was, the Faculty of Law was first started at our University and it was presided over by Professor Beasley who deserves great credit for the standard he set and established. The faculty is now presided over by Professor Payne, who has with him Professor Braybrooke, Dr. Edwards, and others whose reputations stand very high.

I do not think it is any exaggeration to say—and this is not only my opinion but also an opinion fairly widely held by people who are in a position to know—that the standard of our Law School in Western Australia is as high as, if not higher than that of any other university in the Commonwealth. I think that is something of which we can be proud and, as I said, the foundations for this high standard were initially laid by Professor Beasley.

In order to obtain the degree of Bachelor of Laws—that is, the LL.B.—a young man or woman must, of course, have a Leaving Certificate and then complete a course which, if all goes well, takes four years. Naturally, if in any one year the examinations set are not passed it takes longer, but the minimum period is four years. Then the young man or woman comes out of the University very highly educated, but without any experience in the practical side of a barrister's or solicitor's work.

It is provided that these young people serve two years' articles, or apprenticeship, to a private practitioner, or to the Commonwealth or State legal services. At the end of that two years they pass a further examination to ensure they are capable and have an adequate knowledge of the practice of law in this State. They then apply to the Supreme Court of Western Australia, supply testimonials, and are admitted to practice. So it will be appreciated that after young men and women have gone through the period of four years at the University, and two years in articles, they are then in a position to be admitted to practice.

I think it is generally agreed the standard now is much higher than it was in the old days. Many at the University fall by the wayside but those who do eventually

graduate and get admitted are lawyers of a high standard. With the growth that is going on in this State, the increased population, and the greater demand for professional people in all spheres, I think the people of Western Australia are entitled to that. It is only right that these graduates should be highly trained and they should also be people of good general standards.

As I said earlier, the main purpose of the Bill is to enable the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor's Office and the State Crown Law Department to recruit more law graduates. Instead of serving their articles with private practitioners these graduates will be able to serve them with the departments to which I have referred and this should have the effect of recruiting more young lawyers to these respective departments.

I think the Bill is a good one. As I say, it has already been carefully perused by people who are more experienced in this sort of thing than I am and, accordingly, it has my full support.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Justice) [5.1 p.m.]: I would like to thank Mr. Heenan for his remarks in support of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (The Hon. N. E. Baxter) in the Chair; The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Justice) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2: Section 10 repealed and re-enacted—

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: Could the Minister elaborate on the provision which says in effect that the practitioner shall not take, have, or retain an articulated clerk after the practitioner has been suspended from practice or struck off the roll pursuant to part IV of the Act?

My reading of this is that if the practitioner were temporarily suspended, and he had an articulated clerk, he could not in future accept a new articulated clerk; or does this apply only to the articulated clerk who was with him when he was suspended?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am not quite certain of the answer I will give. I think the person who would suffer in the first place would be the articulated clerk himself. If the practitioner were temporarily suspended for six months, or a lesser period, presumably this would be in respect of misconduct for which the Barristers' Board decided he should be suspended.

In such a case the clerk who is articulated to him would not be able to continue his articleship with that practitioner. He would either have to seek to be articulated with another practitioner, or wait until the suspended practitioner was readmitted

and then continue his articleship. I think the time the articulated clerk would lose would be the time for which the practitioner was suspended. I do not know whether Mr. Heenan could confirm the opinion I have given.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: As the Minister has said, the articulated clerk would not be prejudiced in any way if he were articulated to a practitioner who was suspended or struck off the roll. His articles would be transferred to some other practitioner.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: If he were struck off.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: That would be the case even if he were suspended; the clerk's articles would be transferred to another practitioner.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Could not the articulated clerk wait until the suspension period had expired?

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Would not he be out of work for that time?

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: Like the Minister I have not had time to consider the point, but I am sure the articulated clerk would not suffer in any way because of any default by the solicitor with whom he was articulated.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not think Mr. Willesee's question related so much to the articulated clerk. I merely said that the articulated clerk suffers as a result of the misconduct of his principal. If the board suspended a practitioner for three months from August, 1967, he would be back in business again after that three months had expired. The articulated clerk would then have one of two choices: He could dissociate himself from the practitioner who was temporarily suspended, or wait for the three months to expire and continue his articles with his principal.

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: He would write to the Barristers' Board which would immediately find some solution.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The Barristers' Board would know the position not only in relation to the practitioner who was suspended, but also in connection with the man who was articulated to him. I will check this point and let Mr. Willesee know the true position.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I think we have got slightly off beam. I agree with what has been said with regard to the articulated clerk, but this Bill deals with the practitioner, and its provisions could be read in such a way as to imply that the practitioner who was suspended would lose the right to accept an articulated clerk for all time. The articulated clerk will be taken care of, if he is lucky; but the practitioner could suffer even after he has completed his suspension of three months. Surely he would be an efficient lawyer and would be able to train articulated clerks

in the future! It seems to me that he will be precluded from training articulated clerks.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not think that is so.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: That is how it reads to me.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If that were so, it would provide that the practitioner shall not take or retain an articulated clerk for ever and a day.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: It says, after he is suspended.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: This provision is in the principal Act. He cannot retain an articulated clerk while he is suspended, but when he is not under suspension he is back in business, and can take and retain an articulated clerk. It does not say for ever and a day.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Not specifically, but it does by implication.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: This Act has stood the test of time. I will, however, clarify the position, and let the honourable member know.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 22nd August.

THE HON. J. DOLAN (South-East Metropolitan) [5.11 p.m.]: The principal Act became operative only a couple of months ago—I think the Minister said it was on the 2nd June. In the short period of two months, or so, the weakness which the Bill is designed to overcome has been discovered—the lack of a man with mining experience on the committee.

I support the Bill, because I feel it is much better to have on the committee a man with the experience necessary to deal with this problem. He should be a member either of the Air Pollution Control Council or the Scientific Advisory Committee. It is proposed that an additional man be placed on each committee.

In view of the various mining operations over which the parent Act has jurisdiction, I think it is most desirable that in each case a man with mining experience should be a member of the control council or the advisory committee. I would like to give a few examples so that the House can be apprised of the role such a man will play. In this morning's paper members may have noticed that the alumina refinery is to lift its output, and eventually there will be 3,000,000 tons of bauxite mined each year. This is equivalent to about 60,000 tons a week.

There are, of course, two clean air problems associated with that aspect—firstly at the mining end, and then at the refining end at Cockburn Sound.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Technically the refining end is the mine; that was our difficulty.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: That is so. Only a fortnight ago I saw the rail extensions, and so on, necessary to extend the operations of the company which is to mine the bauxite; and although there is provision in the agreement that eventually it will be required to reforest the area from which the bauxite is taken, I feel there is a possible danger to the flora in the district concerned.

An experienced mining man may be able to point out to the operating company how this can be avoided. This would not only benefit the State, but would also help preserve the natural beauty of the area.

As we all know, there is a good deal of activity at Gosnells in connection with the quarrying and crushing of blue metal, and I feel that the experience and know-how of a mining man would be absolutely essential in such operations.

Considering the matter from the point of view of the companies, I feel that at the commencement of operations this man could perform a valuable service in making his experience available to them. If this were done, he would be a great help in connection with the installation of any machinery necessary to comply with the Act, and in the long run considerably less expense would be involved.

During the debate on the Address-in-Reply the other day, one member referred to the trouble arising from sulphur fumes in the Bassendean area. This problem also comes within the knowledge of a mining man. I will give an example. A similar problem occurred in the mining towns on the goldfields where the sulphur fumes not only destroyed the vegetation, but also had a bad effect on the health of the people.

The Hon. J. J. Garrigan: And the houses.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: And the houses—roofs, and so on. Different metals were also affected and the mining men, after investigation, finally came to the conclusion that the problem could be solved by increasing, and in many cases doubling, the height of the chimneys. The sulphur fumes themselves were comparatively light and, because of the prevailing breezes, the higher the chimneys were raised the further out the fumes would spread, thus ensuring a dissolving process. The result of this was the fumes did not cause even half as much damage as they had done prior to that time.

I believe the experience of a mining man would be invaluable to the committee. Provision is contained in section 17, I think, for the committee to obtain expert advice from people of experience; but it seems a pity that a council should have to adjourn

a discussion on a particular problem in order to seek advice when if it had a mining man of experience and specialised knowledge on the committee, the problem could be solved there and then.

I feel that this Bill will have teething troubles. However, all sections are well represented on the committee as it is composed of people from a very wide field. Its members have been very well selected and have experience and know-how. With the addition of a mining man it would be, at least on paper, as near as possible to a very desirable committee.

We support the Bill and hope that when the committee operates properly it will meet with a tremendous amount of success. This State has a lot to learn from the experience of others, not only in the capitals of Australia, but also from overseas countries. For instance, in Japan people find it almost impossible to live in certain areas because of this problem. We have only to consider these countries to realise what the situation could be in this State in 40 or 50 years' time.

Therefore we can only wish the council and Scientific Advisory Committee every good luck in their operations; and we have much pleasure in supporting the Bill.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Thank you.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 22nd August.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [5.21 p.m.]: This Bill has the advantage of previous experience under the Medical Act in that the provisions incorporated in it have been tried and proved successful, as was evidenced by the remarks of the Minister when he introduced the Bill.

The good work done under the principal Act by physiotherapists in general is acclaimed throughout the State. I believe every opportunity should be given to allow people to come to this State and benefit from the knowledge we possess in this particular sphere. The Bill also provides that specialists may come to Western Australia and be registered so that they may in turn impart their knowledge to those people who desire to practise in this field. In that way they will profit considerably by the knowledge these specialists are able to pass on to them.

I think it would be wasting time for me to present a long discourse on the principle of this Bill which is that we reciprocate the knowledge we have; and in turn

we will accept that a person highly qualified can be given the opportunity to come to this State and work as a teacher to impart knowledge to those who will eventually operate in this field, and who, in turn, will pass on the knowledge gained. This will be of benefit to their future patients. We support the Bill.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [5.24 p.m.]: I have one or two points in mind which I feel we might well study. Under the Medical Act difficulties were experienced when lecturers came to Western Australia because it was not possible, even for a surgeon with high qualifications from Great Britain or America, to carry out surgical work unless he was given some recognition. As a result of that we were losing a good deal of opportunity because we were unable to have explanations given to us of how those specialists operated. Subsequently, somehow, we were able to formulate a scheme to allow these people to be accepted by the Medical Board.

In this case we are dealing with individuals who are qualified solely as physiotherapists, and we are ensuring they will have the opportunity to learn from us. This is not a matter of urgency as was the position under the Medical Act, and to which I have referred. For instance, Professor Israel came here and stayed for only seven or eight days and we had to give him the right, as an American, to undertake surgical operations and explain the methods used to the gynaecological units of Western Australia.

Under this Bill, however, it appears to me that there is time available in which to make the necessary arrangements. In the case of the Medical Act we had to ask for the consent of the Minister in a hurry. I have not had time since this Bill was introduced to ascertain exactly how we overcame the difficulty; but under this Bill it seems that time is not an important factor, because the Bill states—

... during such time as his appointment and engagement in that teaching or research or as a post-graduate scholar continues to be his sole professional occupation in the State, if in the opinion of the Minister and at the absolute discretion of the Minister it is desirable in the interests of the general community of the State to so register that person.

I think it would be a better approach to develop reciprocity between certain of these physiotherapy schools scattered throughout Britain and America, and allow the board to accept individuals who have been trained in such institutions. That would be a much better way out of the situation.

I am not decrying the fact that the Minister has the say; but I feel that this is overriding the board. Surely, if a board is appointed it should be trusted.

If we provided that there be reciprocity between certain schools, we would be able to overcome some of the difficulties which will be experienced under this Bill.

I am not going to vote against the Bill, but I do ask the Minister to have another look at it to ascertain whether an arrangement similar to that operating under the Medical Act could be incorporated.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: What particular difficulty do you envisage?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Time.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Show me where.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: It is necessary for the Minister to be approached before a person can be appointed. In my opinion the board should know all about the applicant—where he came from, and so on.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: The Minister would be advised by the board, surely.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I think if my suggestion were adopted, much more use of the provisions in the Bill would be gained. I would like the Minister to think it over and see if the Bill could be amended along somewhat similar lines to the Medical Act.

THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (South Metropolitan) [5.28 p.m.]: I rise to mention one or two points in connection with this Bill, but not to oppose it.

I would like to draw attention to the amendment passed in 1954 and in regard to which I received a great deal of help from Dr. Hislop to get the Bill through the House. The amendment was designed to allow two people to be registered because, under the Act, they had come to this State, one six weeks and the other two weeks, too late to be included in the grandfather provision. One of those persons was Mr. Jack Johnson who is a physiotherapist at the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Subiaco. He has, under Dr. Bedbrook, done a magnificent job with the paraplegics.

The point I want to make is that the work this man was able to do was delayed for 12 months until the amendment was passed in 1954; yet look at the good that man has done for the State! Wherever there is a possibility that people of knowledge can come to Western Australia, they should be encouraged to do so. I think the point which Dr. Hislop is making is that by the time he is registered, a qualified person could even have left the State.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [5.30 p.m.]: Some of the members who were in this Chamber some years ago will probably remember that I proposed an amendment to the Physiotherapists Act. My amendment dealt particularly with the question of reciprocity. At that time the teacher at the School of Physiotherapy in this State was an unqualified person. Of course, this matter is now

past history. However, I do agree with what Dr. Hislop said in regard to reciprocity.

I am afraid the Minister was not very explicit in regard to this Bill at the time he moved the second reading. It was a very brief speech and, in reading it, it does not give members any idea of what this Bill really contains. Perhaps in reply the Minister could be a little more explicit in regard to the provisions of the amendment.

Section 10 of the Act definitely lays down the principles which the board could adopt in regard to registration. In my opinion this amending Bill does cut across the provisions of section 10 to a certain degree, as it starts off, "Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section."

Of course there is also another angle where, apparently, a person under the age of 21 could be registered. If one looks at section 10 of the Act one will see that it definitely lays down that a person must be of the age of 21 years. However, this stipulation could be negated through the wording, "Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1)." A person under the age of 21 years could be registered under the provisions of this Bill.

I consider this subject could be dealt with more properly at the committee stage. However, I mention that I would like a more detailed explanation from the Minister in his reply than he gave in his second reading speech. I will leave the balance of my comments to the committee stage of the Bill.

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (Lower West—Minister for Health) [5.32 p.m.]: I am somewhat at a loss as to what to say to the comments that have been made in connection with this Bill. I feel constrained to say that I am intrigued by the fact that, to my mind, the Leader of the Opposition is the only person who has seen this amending Bill as the simple straightforward measure which it is. In actual fact, I think I could have explained this Bill in its entirety simply by reading the measure and not giving any further explanation to the House. It is so simple.

I do not know how anyone could reach the postgraduate situation mentioned unless he were 21 years of age. The amending Bill reads—

- (b) is desirous of engaging in the occupation, as his sole professional occupation in the State, of teaching or research, or of a post-graduate scholar, in physiotherapy under the direction and control of a teaching or research institution;

In any physiotherapy institute in the world one might, of course, find a very clever child; but if someone were so bril-

liant it probably would not matter what his age was.

The Hon. J. Dolan: He would not be engaged in physiotherapy if he were so brilliant.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: He would not be engaged in physiotherapy; he would probably be engaged in physics research.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: He would be a parliamentarian.

The Hon. R. Thompson: We have one young one now.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: This is a very simple Bill, and I think this point has been adequately explained.

In connection with Dr. Hislop's comments, I would like to say that the various aspects and methods were looked into. To some extent, I suppose it depends somewhat on one's point of view. Frankly I consider that a Minister who is in the situation of being directly responsible to Parliament ought to keep control wherever it is possible; in fact, he is expected to do so. To my mind, this is quite reasonable. The individual makes application to the board for registration. By making the provision at the sole discretion of the Minister, it is a matter of a signature given at the board's recommendation. This can be done quickly, effectively, and efficiently. I personally do not think it could be managed much quicker than is proposed.

It is obvious to me, as it must be to all members who have experience of these matters, that the Minister would not know of these people. Normally this sort of arrangement would be made through the board. The board would make a recommendation to the Minister and, unless the Minister had very serious reasons for not doing so, he would do what the board recommended. This is the same line of action which, in the main, is taken with the various organisations which function under different other Acts. I refer to the Medical Board, and so on.

I am in the situation where I agree completely with the Leader of the Opposition in regard to the comments made by him. I cannot agree with the other comments which have been made up to this time. As I have said, it is a simple Bill which has been put forward at the request of the Physiotherapists Registration Board in the interests of physiotherapists in this State. I feel quite sure members will support this Bill, and I hope I have allayed any worries which they may have.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery) in the Chair; The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Health) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2: Section 10 amended—

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Although experience may show that it may not be possible for someone under the age of 21 to be concerned under this clause, it does appear to me that the wording of the Bill provides for this possibility.

One very small point which rather amuses me is that under section 10 of the Act as it stands a person has to be of good character and attain the age of 21 before he can be registered. The wording in the amending Bill is that the individual has to be of good fame and character. I do not know if there is any difference between the meaning of these two expressions. In any event, the meaning does not appear to be defined in the dictionary. I do not know why the draftsman included those words, because I think that the word "character" would be sufficient.

I am not very much in favour of this Bill and, in particular, with paragraph (c) of proposed new subsection 2 which states—

- (c) has such qualifications in physiotherapy as in the opinion of the Board fit and qualify him for appointment to a position connected with, and to engage in the occupation of teaching or research, or of a post-graduate scholar in, physiotherapy,

This was my point some years ago when I raised the question of teaching physiotherapy in Western Australia.

I reiterate what I said in my second reading speech that some years ago there was an unqualified teacher in Western Australia who was permitted to operate as a teacher at the discretion of the board. It was not until I introduced an amending Bill and caused quite a stir that action was taken and a doctor went to England to obtain a qualified teacher. I maintain that this amendment would enable the board, once again, to appoint an unqualified teacher.

In section 10 of the Act it distinctly lays down that a person is issued with a license authorising him to practise physiotherapy if—

- (a) he has completed the prescribed course of training, and passed the prescribed examinations, or holds qualifications of any university, board, association, society or body prescribed by the regulations, or, in the case of a blind person, he has completed the prescribed special course of training and passed the prescribed special examinations;

The proposed amendment does not conform with paragraph (a) of section 10 of the principal Act. The amendment leaves it purely at the discretion of the board to appoint someone to teach physiotherapy

who, in the board's opinion, and with the consent of the Minister, is a fit and proper person to teach it, irrespective of the provisions laid down in the principal Act. That is how I see the position. In my opinion we could soon be back in the old position, because registration depends entirely on the discretion of the Minister.

The Minister would be ratifying the board's decision. I do not know whether the Minister should really use his discretionary power to sign a document to say that a person should be registered. The Minister indicated, when he replied to the second reading debate—although he did not use these words—that it became almost automatic that the Minister would sign documents in relation to the registration of a person under the provisions of this amending Bill.

Those are my feelings and I do not want to see physiotherapy in this State reach the stage where an unqualified person could be appointed. I believe that could happen under the provisions of this Bill. If the board is lax and feels it is having difficulty in obtaining a qualified teacher, it might appoint a person who is not qualified for the position.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: If I had put forward a case which was as tenuous and almost as scurrilous as the case which has been advanced, I would expect to be torn limb from limb. Mr. Baxter has built a case on a remark which, as he himself said, the Minister did not really make.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: I said you did not use the exact words.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Mr. Baxter did not even retain the sense of what I was trying to convey to the Committee, and he knows this fact as well as I do. All I can do is repeat that this is a very simple measure. Some of the board's representatives are physiotherapists. So far as I am aware, there is no compulsion on a physiotherapist to attend a postgraduate lecture, or anything of that nature. In the same way, there is no compulsion, under the Medical Act, for that board to arrange for a visiting surgeon or physician to lecture, teach, or demonstrate. The Act is administered by a board and its members have established physiotherapy in this State. In some respects the standard is so high that people who would not normally have the right to be registered to do postgraduate work are anxious to come to Western Australia because of that fact. I think it is reasonable that we should give them this opportunity.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: The Minister is referring to postgraduate work, and not to teaching.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I now turn to the question of teaching. There are people who are well qualified and the physiotherapists in this State would like them to be able to come to Western Australia to give a lecture or, perhaps, demon-

strate in some particular field. The Government suggests that these people should be given this right. It is as simple as that. The board is not composed of a group of people who are anti-physiotherapy. I find that all boards and all executives of organisations—whether it be the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association executive, the School Teachers' Union executive, or the physiotherapists board—become very jealous indeed of the good name of their organisation. This is my own experience. I would suggest that the standing and character of the members of the physiotherapists board are such that we can quite confidently leave the minor matters of detailed arrangements in their hands.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: The Minister, in making a flowery sort of speech skated around my reference to teaching, which was the point I raised. If the Minister reads paragraph (b) of proposed new subsection (2) he will find that it refers to "teaching or research" as well as "a post-graduate scholar." That is the point to which I am referring. A person who did not comply with the qualifications as set down in section 10 of the Act could come to this State and the board could permit him to teach. I am not drawing the long bow over this issue, because we had a similar occurrence in this State previously.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: There are only one or two small matters that interest me. The first is that apparently there is no secondary qualification for the qualified physiotherapist. He is simply called a physiotherapist. I do not know whether he is issued with a diploma.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I think he is.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: That is what I want to know, because in paragraph (c) of proposed new subsection (2) it mentions that a person shall have such qualifications in physiotherapy which in the opinion of the board would qualify him to teach. I was wondering whether the word "qualifications" appears in the Act, because this paragraph does leave the board quite open. I should think a physiotherapist would hold a diploma or a certificate issued by some recognised school. The wording in this clause is quite wide and something definite should be laid down. On page 3 of the Bill proposed new subsection (3) reads—

For the purposes of subsection (2) of this section, "teaching or research institution" means any university, college or school of physiotherapy, research institute, hospital, clinic or other like institution . . .

Although to a large extent that covers those several places, there is no mention of any specific qualifications; it is simply left to the board to decide whether a physiotherapist is qualified to teach. If a diploma is issued to a physiotherapist I think mention should be made of it in relation to his qualifications.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: It seems that many words have been used over this matter. I notice in the Act that before any person can obtain a license authorising him to practise physiotherapy he must complete the prescribed training course which would indicate that he was qualified. In the Bill it is provided that a person must first satisfy the board he is so qualified, and I think the board would establish certain standards before it made its decision.

I would think that a physiotherapist coming to this State for a month, or two months, could illustrate the facets of the profession in which he had become expert. He would have to satisfy the board of his good fame, the word "fame" being associated with the word "famous." The men who would come here to pass on some specialised knowledge as teachers would be those of outstanding ability. It does not mean anything that the Minister has absolute discretion. The board would know, some months ahead, of the individuals who were coming to this State. The Minister would no doubt consult with the board and accept its advice, and the persons concerned would either be permitted to operate or would be refused such permission.

The Bill is straightforward and is well in keeping with the standards that have been set. I might say that the standards of physiotherapy in this State are equal to the standards in any other part of the world. I have seen the work performed by physiotherapists in this State on paraplegics which has been directed not only towards improving their physical state but also their mental state. The work of the physiotherapists is excellent.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I fully agree with Mr. Dolan that the standards of physiotherapy in this State, including the standard of teaching, are very high; but that is only because I forced the issue some years ago, and I do not want the Committee to take a retrograde step with this Bill.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West—Minister for Local Government) [5.52 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 29th August.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.53 p.m.