on the Rand, where 163 cases have been notified since the beginning of the year until March 19, the incidence of poliomyelitis in the Transvaal is now considerably higher than it was at the corresponding period of last year, when the disease reached its peak in January.

During January, 31 cases were notified in the Transvaal as against 178 for the corresponding period last year, 84 cases were notified in February as against 105 in 1956, while for the period March 1-19, 85 cases were notified compared with 33 for the corresponding period last year.

In the rest of the country the incidence has remained lower than last year as will be observed from the following figures (figures in respect of the corresponding periods last year are given in parenthesis):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cape Province</th>
<th>Natal</th>
<th>Free State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1956</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>16 (58)</td>
<td>20 (101)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1956</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>24 (45)</td>
<td>20 (80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1-19, 1956</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>10 (9)</td>
<td>3 (18)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Minister states that the type of the disease this year is generally mild and where cases of paralysis have occurred, they are less severe than those of last year. Experience has shown that the disease generally becomes much less prevalent with the onset of cooler weather and it is hoped that this will again be the case this year.

**OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**MEDICAL AID SOCIETIES**

The approved Medical Aid Societies have accepted the revised fees adopted by Federal Council in October 1955.

1. **Fees for General Practitioners.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visits</th>
<th>Consultations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>17/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of Union and South West Africa</td>
<td>15/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night calls (7 p.m. to 7 a.m.)—throughout the Union and South West Africa</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Confinement Fee for Specialists.**

   The fee is £18 18s. Od. for a normal confinement, on condition that the case is referred to the specialist by a general practitioner. These fees will become operative as from 1 April 1956.

   L. M. Marchand, Associate Secretary

Medical House,
Cape Town,
22 March 1956.

**REFRESHER COURSES FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS : OPKNAPPIJNGSKURSUSSE VIR ALGEMENE PRAKTIYSNS**

Refresher Courses for general practitioners will be conducted by the Medical Faculty of the Pretoria University from 16 to 20 April 1956, and from 13 to 18 August 1956.

Practitioners will be taken on ward rounds in the mornings and the afternoons and evenings will be devoted to lectures, demonstrations and discussions, the course to embrace the whole Faculty from Anatomy and Physiology to Medicine.

General practitioners are requested to send their applications for inclusion in the 16-20 April course on or before 12 April 1956. The applications should be addressed to: The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Pretoria, P.O. Box 667, Pretoria.

Opknappingskurse vir algemene praktysns is deur die Fakulteit Geneeskunde van die Universiteit Pretoria gereel om van 16 tot 20 April 1956, en van 13 tot 18 Augustus 1956, plaas te vind.

Die plan is om die praktysns in die ogende op saalronde te neem en in die middag en aande leesinge, demonstrasies en besprekinge te hou. So 'n kursus sal die hele fakulteit insluit, van Anatomie en Fysiologie tot by Interne Geneeskunde.

Algemene praktysns word gevra om huile applikasies vir die eerste kursus, d.w.s. 16-20 April 1956, op of vóór 12 April 1956 in te dien. Aansoeke moet gerig word aan: Die Dekaan van die Mediese Fakulteit, Universiteit Pretoria, Posbus 667, Pretoria.

**REGISTRATION OF SPECIALITIES**

This subject was further considered at the meeting* of the South African Medical and Dental Council which was held in Cape Town on 19-22 March.

At the previous meeting of the Council (September 1955) the report of an ad hoc committee on this subject was considered,

* A report on the proceedings of this meeting will be published in next week's issue.

when the voting on the committee's recommendation that a register of consultants should be instituted to replace the 'register of specialists' in (say) 5 years was equal (10:10). The whole issue was then referred back to a new ad hoc committee consisting of the President (Professor Oosthuizen), Drs. Black, Bloom, C. Shapiro and Wagner, and Mr. Rood.

At the present meeting the report of the new ad hoc committee was presented. The committee had had before it the results of the