

No Cause for Alarm as Disabled Get Assistance

BY MATHEW KIBE

THE physically handicapped students have no cause for worry about managing it once at the University. The reason is that the University has always had the interests of the handicapped students at heart, and actually goes out of its way to make the academic lives of these students as comfortable as possible.

At least two students who lost their sight after entry into the University have, within the last few years been fully sponsored by the University, to the Thika School for the Blind to acquire skills in the braille use, typing, and in mobility. The students thereafter are able to successfully pursue their degree courses. One of these students is presently practising law here in Nairobi. The other is a BA finalist this year.

Additionally, the University provides to these students, braille machines, writing materials, typewriters and tape-recorders. They are also allocated single rooms in ground floors at the Halls of Residence.

The University is in the process of recruiting a specialist in braille-use, so that he would transcribe material from the printed form to the braille form thus greatly assisting the blind. Transcribed hand-outs, from selected

book chapters would then be easily used by the students.

The University main library is soon to set aside a section where the braille material would be stored for use by future generations. A definitely

worthwhile investment along the same lines would be a photocopying machine for the braille materials so that when there are many students they would be able to have access to them.

For both the blind and the physically disabled, the University provides consistent and punctual means of transport to and from the lecture theatres. The vehicles manned by disciplined drivers ensure that these students arrive for lectures on time. At meal-times the transport system brings the students back in time for the grab.

The University has allowed and encouraged the existence of an association for the disabled where this special group of students met and deliberate matters that appertain to them. As a team they are better able to press for issues with the administration. The present chairman of NUSAD (Nairobi University Students Association) is Mr. C.N. Gatungu, while the secretary is Mr. Ngui.

A variety of games are available to the disabled students. A number of them are particularly interested in Table-Tennis, and another in Darts.



Equal opportunity