OBITUARY

ARCHIBALD VIVIAN HILL, C.H., O.B.E., M.A., Sc.D., L.L.D., F.R.S.

It is with great regret that we learned of the death of Professor A. V. Hill, on June 3rd, 1977, and so soon after we published a special number of this journal in celebration of his ninetieth birthday (Brit.J.Sports Med., 10: 4 – 1976). In this number E. J. Hamley wrote an appreciation of the contributions Prof. Hill made to the physiology of muscle, for which he and Otto Mayerhof were awarded the Nobel Prize in 1922. They investigated the chemistry of muscle contraction, the role of glycogen, the production of adenosine triphosphate and the place of the energy-rich phosphates familiar to every student of medicine, physiotherapy and physical education, and one of the most significant pieces of work that laid down the understanding of muscle physiology, respiration and nutrition.

A hard-bound presentation copy of the celebration number of this journal was donated by Professor Ernst Jökl, and handed personally to Professor Hill by a student member of BASM, who was received with the greatest charm and courtesy, and she must have been one of the last visitors he had before his final short illness. He was still at work in his study, making critical notes on articles in the current Journal of Physiology. We offer our sympathy to his son and daughters, and also to his many colleagues and former students, for whom he was a figure of respect and affection all their academic lives.

H. E. Robson

CORRESPONDENCE

NEGLECT OF SPORTS MEDICINE

A letter appeared in the British Medical Journal on July 9th, 1977, written by Mr. Frank d'Abreu, Ch.M., F.R.C.S. It drew attention to the serious nature of some injuries sustained in Rugby football, and the lack of statistical information about their frequency and nature, at least in Rugby Union. He stated that the U.K. is the only member of the EEC that lacks a centre for the training of doctors in sports medicine, despite the directive of the EEC Council of Ministers in October 1973. As our Association has done a little to rectify this situation, the editor replied:—

EDITOR'S REPLY

28th July, 1977

Dear Mr. d'Abreu,

We noted your letter regarding "Neglect of Sports Medicine" in the British Medical Journal, 9th July, 1977. While agreeing with you generally, a few of us are making an attempt to establish sports medicine in the United Kingdom, but it is a very hard job to convince the medical establishment of the necessity of a new specialty.

We regard sports medicine as being a branch of occupational medicine and have won some recognition after a long struggle, in that sports medicine is now accepted by the Conjoint Board of the Royal Colleges as one of the six elective special subjects that may be taken in the new Diploma of Rheumatology and Rehabilitation.

Our Association so far numbers some 400 doctors, most of them in the United Kingdom, but also scattered throughout the world; and about the same number of physiologists, physical educationists, physiotherapists and even analytical chemists to horse racing authorities. We publish the British Journal of Sports Medicine quarterly.