EDITORIAL

Another Annual General Meeting of the British Association of Sport and Medicine has taken place, and this time we were able to report that the effect of doubling all subscriptions at the beginning of the year has enabled us to remain solvent, and in future years we hope to refund to the Deposit Account the money we had to draw from it to prevent a large bank overdraft. A review of standing orders has caused more than the usual annual number of resignations, as was to be expected, but we still run a learned society with one of the lowest subscription rates in this country.

WHAT IS A ‘MEMBER’? Reasons for resignations and cancellations of the Journal vary. Some are understandable; “Retired on a small pension”’, “In a new job where there is no involvement with sports medicine”, “Married and breeding”, “Severe cuts in our Institution’s budget” and a very few “Personal financial economy”. Other reasons can only cause us some annoyance — late resignations without payment of the current subscription, and after the lapse of nine months from the time it was due; the student member who takes advantage of the very low subscription rate then resigns as soon as qualified; but the one with which we feel least sympathy is the grumble that “I do not get enough from the Journal” or the “Association”. Some of these latter are senior members of teaching hospitals, in academic departments, and it is to these that we must point out that an Association exists not only for what its members can get OUT of it, but also for what they can PUT INTO IT. We do not expect to publish reports of outstanding new developments in the research field; — that is the function of the very specialised journals such as the Journal of Physiology, Cardiology, Bone and Joint or any other specialised publication. We do however hope to receive reports about the applications of the innovations to the field of sports medicine and science, or review articles written by our senior academic colleagues. There is a decided shortage of such work from academic clinicians in the UK, though we have many among our members. Lethargy is a very difficult enemy to fight!

The 22nd World Congress on Sports Medicine has also taken place since the publication of the last issue of this Journal, and a report largely upon the business and social aspects appears in this number. We have been promised a review of the main scientific communications, which we hope we shall receive in time for the December issue, already in preparation. A report is also included from one of the students taking part in the 1982 one-week residential course at Loughborough in March.

The original articles in this number come from all over the world; an interesting account from Japan of experimental work to try to confirm the varieties of back injuries sustained from different sports stresses, exercise physiology from the Republic of China and from Edinburgh, diet and smoking from the UK, anabolic steroids and Norwegian weight lifters, orthopaedics from Finland and the UK and theories on the causes of melena and abdominal pain in runners. We also reproduce the World of Sports Medicine leaflet at the request of the Secretary General of FIMS, Dr. Allan Ryan, to whom we offer our congratulations on the 1982 Citation Award from the American College of Sports Medicine, especially in appreciation of his work as Editor of Physician and Sports Medicine.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. We come again towards the end of the year, and the 1983 subscriptions will soon be due. Payment on Bankers Orders will begin to be processed by banks during October and November, so would those paying by Bankers Order please ensure that the Order is for the correct amount, as stated in the Call for Subscriptions printed in this issue of the Journal. There are still many members and external library subscribers in arrears for 1982, despite many announcements in the Journal, and personal reminders.