

EDITORIAL

In this issue of the journal, the ancient origins of sports medicine are discussed in the paper by Don Masterson, who describes clinical facilities and sports injuries in the time of the ancient Greek civilisation. He points out that there was little development of sports medicine, or indeed of medicine of any kind, for some three thousand years. Scientific anatomy made large strides after the Renaissance, but physiology remained virtually a subject remote from experimental study until the close of the 19th century. With the beginning of the present century, physiology developed rapidly, taking advantage of related sciences such as electronics, chemistry, and pharmacology. Most effort was concentrated upon the study of the normal man and animal, and upon the infra-normal – the diseased patient. Very few people paid any attention to the study of the supra-normal, though such study could give a set of physiological parameters that could be regarded as the ideal for the fit man. Eventually a few physiologists extended their field of study to include the very fit, and the response of the very fit to severe exercise stresses that the untrained man could not undergo. An outstanding pioneer in this new field of exercise physiology is Professor Archibald Vivian Hill, working in the Physiology Department of University College, University of London, who celebrated his ninetieth birthday on September 16th 1976.

A. V. Hill's influence affected exercise physiologists everywhere, and his former students can be found world-wide; Michio Ikai, who died in Japan in 1972, Prof. R. Margaria of Milan, and many in Scandinavia. A very well-known colleague and admirer is Prof. Ernst Jokl, who submitted a manuscript for the issue of the journal, with the request that it be dedicated to Professor A. V. Hill. The Editorial Board decided that this number of the British Journal of Sports Medicine should be published in celebration of Professor Hill's birthday, and be devoted largely to topics in his own field of interest, the response of man to the stresses of exercise.

An appreciation of Professor Hill has been written by Ernest Hamley, who played a major part in producing this celebration number of B.J.S.M. Although not one of Hill's "academic children", he can be regarded as an "academic grandchild", who continued the work started in the early 1920's. "Academic great-grandchildren" such as Vaughan Thomas, Tom Reilly, Edward Winter and Bruce Davies have contributed papers from the U.K., and other of Hill's successors such as A. H. Ismail, and the Aerobics Institute team headed by Kenneth Cooper, together with their teams and associates, have contributed articles from across the Atlantic.

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The editor regrets that there was a hold up in the production of No. 3 of the current volume, and this has in turn led to some delay in the production of this final issue of Volume 10, No. 4. Much of the material has already been received for the first number of Volume 11, which we hope to publish in March 1977. The Editorial Board would appreciate articles submitted for later issues of Vol. 11, in time for proper refereeing and revision where necessary, to try to improve the standard of the journal but without making it too obtruse and unreadable by our membership.

We hope soon to publish the programme for 1977, and an advance notice is included in the journal concerning the B.A.S.M./F.I.M.S. course planned for Glasgow in late March – early April. As this may be the last journal issued before the course commences, we urge those interested to apply soon, and try to negotiate with their employing authorities for support (though in this present economic climate, there is little money available to train doctors, physiotherapists and P.E. teachers to do their job, even though they can get "the pill" for nothing and better social benefits in some cases than they can get when in employment).

As we go to press, we have received the first copy of "Physiotherapy in Sport", the new tri-annual journal of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Sports Medicine. We welcome this journal, and congratulate the editor, Mr. John Cross, M.C.S.P., of 8 Trinfield Avenue, EXMOUTH, Devon, from whom copies can be obtained at 50 pence each.

ERRATUM

We draw readers' attention to an error in the caption to fig. 2 in Mrs. Marian Horner's article in Vol. 10 No. 3, page 134. The dose of ethanol/kg should of course be 1.14 GRAMMES, and not Milligrammes. We apologise for this error in proof reading.