EDITORIAL

With the advent of the 1980’s we hope for many changes for the better, in sport and sports medicine as well as in daily living and international and national politics. One sign of change is an increased awareness, all over the world, of sports medicine, the need to promote education by courses and conferences, and by publication of research and technical innovation. 1979 has seen the formation of two journals in English; Medisport in the U.K. and the Italian Journal of Sports Traumatology printed in English and Italian. The former, being financed by its extensive advertising, is circulated monthly, free to general practitioners and other U.K. registered doctors on the general medical mailing list, and available on subscription to other medical personnel and institutions from Sportsmedica Publications, 1 Packhorse Road, Gerards Cross, Bucks. This apparent discrimination is due to national policy regarding all journals supported by pharmaceutical advertising, and not in any way to the journal’s policy. The Italian journal is published at $45.00 U.S. by Editrice Kurtis s.r.l., Via G.B. Moroni 21, 20146 MILANO, Italy, quarterly. The Society of Sports Sciences have also started their own news bulletin, which might later be expanded into a journal. Other medical journals appear to be increasing the number of articles relevant to sports medicine; the British Medical Journal of December 22nd reports scum pox due to herpes simplex – Shute, Jeffries and Maddocks of St. Marys’ Hospital, Paddington, and on December 8th a case of recurrent syncope after running by Hara and Tsutsumi of Kumamoto University, Japan. Articles have also been seen in Pulse, Doctor, General Practitioner, as well as the regular down-to-earth Sports Medicine feature by Sperryn in Medical News.

All this activity in publishing sports medicine reports and instruction articles means that we have to put our own house in order with the British Journal of Sports Medicine, and with our Association. It is hoped that the members of the Editorial Board will take a more active role, especially with the scrutiny of original articles, and seeking out authors who will produce work of merit. Several members of the Editorial Board and of the BASM’s Executive Committee, including the Editor, have felt that the standard of all the original articles was not high enough, despite refereeing of all papers. Developments we hope for are an abstract service, for which volunteers are required, and commissioned articles by acknowledged authorities who need not necessarily be members of the Association or regular readers. Our next problem is that of cost. We have been able to hold both our membership subscription and external library cost at the 1975 level, but this has been in a time of escalating costs of everything, and we have just received notice from the printers of an increase in their charges of 12-15%. Although we have a useful reserve of capital, we will soon either have to reduce the frequency of journal publication or increase all subscriptions. Readers’ views would be appreciated. If the frequency of journal publication is reduced, we should do our best to keep our members and readers informed of events by publishing the Bulletin separately on some occasions. The delay in publication of this number is regretted, and due to circumstances outside the control of the Editor or the Printer.

The increase in sports medicine publications is mirrored by an increase in the number of courses and conferences. BASM members are asked to note the changed date of the Annual General Meeting, that is now due to take place at the University of Loughborough on Saturday April 19th, 1980, and full details will be circulated well before this date. Notices are also due to appear regarding the sports medicine course at Loughborough, April 13-19th, 1980, and later future meetings of the Association. The dates and places of meetings of BASM and other organisations is given at the beginning of the Bulletin section of this issue, and fuller details are given in other parts of the journal.

This current number contains a report on badminton injuries by Hensley and Paup from the University of Northern Iowa, another clinical report from McLatchie and his co-workers in Glasgow on an unusual and disabling elbow injury that could occur in most sports, an investigation into the power produced by different types of man-propelled pedals inspired by attempts at man-propelled flying machines, reported by Sherwin, an engineer from Liverpool University, and three papers on exercise physiology. The possible use of winter training in water as a method of improving runners’ endurance is discussed by Gatti, Young and Glad; Davis and Gass from Australia report on some technically difficult blood lactate investigations, and there is another investigation on Indian sportsmen reported by De and his colleagues from Benaras, India.

Apart from a book review celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Italian Federation of Sports Medicine and notices of our Association (including the Call for Subscriptions for 1980, for which this is the official notification that PAYMENT IS DUE from all who do not pay by Banker’s Order) we include the index for Volume 13.

Those subscribing to the Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness should note that the subscription has been increased; BASM members can still obtain this international journal at a reduced price, but this has doubled for 1980, from $12.50 U.S. to $25, and as we have to pay bank exchange charges on foreign cheques we receive, as well as high charges for money we send to Italy, we have to ask for $27 from our overseas members, and £12.50 from those resident...
in the U.K. or who pay in sterling with cheques drawn on a U.K. bank. A notice regarding Irish subscriptions appears with the Call for Subscription on page 189.

Apart from symposia and courses, there are also several "Doctors' Sports Events" taking place, and we have just read a notice in General Practitioner relating to the World Medical Games, together with a symposium on Sports Medicine, to take place in Cannes from June 7th-14th, 1980. Enquiries should be sent to Dr. David Delvin, 'General Practitioner', Haymarket Publishing, 76 Dean Street, London W1. The approximate cost will be $350, including air fare, accommodation and registration for the games.

Two other news items that have been noted are the foundation of a Society of Orthopaedic Medicine, that should interest many of our members dealing with soft tissue diseases and trauma; enquiries to 206 Albany Street, LONDON NW1 (01-388-2226), and a report in the Sunday Express of December 23rd and no doubt in other papers in a more lurid style, concerning a lady member of BASM who was called to examine a concussed rugby player in the dressing room, unaware that the rest of the team were changing. The committee of the home team resented their visitors' remedial gymnast, but as women doctors and therapists are playing an important part in "front line sports medicine", the obvious answer to complaints is to do what our association has been advocating for many years; — make proper facilities for a first aid and treatment room, even if part of the bar has to be taken off to make room for an equally essential facility.

The first issue of Volume 14, 1980 will be devoted largely to the publication of the proceedings of a two day symposium held at Exeter. Work on transcribing from tape and editing the communications is well advanced, and it is hoped to publish at the end of February or early March. More information should also be available for our future programme. Meanwhile the annual reports, accounts and other notices relating to the Annual General Meeting should be circulated in March.

7th January, 1980

H.E. ROBSON

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OBITUARY

Dr. P. J. R. NICHOLS

Philip Nichols, whose tragic death was recently reported, was one of the leading figures in rehabilitation in the United Kingdom. Apart from being Consultant Adviser to the D.H.S.S. he was Director of Mary Marlborough Lodge and as such made his greatest and most lasting contribution to the art in the development of treatment methods and aids for the severely handicapped.

In recent years he had turned his attention to a critical study of the methods of treatment of soft-tissue injuries which brought him into the field of Sports Medicine. He was briefly a member of the BASM and it must always be regretted that he was denied the time and opportunity to realise his awakening interest in the management of sports injuries. We shall, alas, never know the valuable contribution he could have made in this demanding field.

J. G. P. Williams