Dr Bannister has analysed the points in which we are interested, extremely well. I suppose what we are converging on is whether, for training in certain events, we should go to the lengths of taking men up to altitude more or less systematically.

Some other points have occurred to me, though they are in a sense only extensions of the six questions Dr. Bannister asked. One is whether we should put the finger, as it were, on young athletes and, while they are still growing, send them to altitude for a time. That, I think, is a rather unpleasant subject.

A question that does not seem to have been dealt with is whether an athlete ought to be fully trained, to the peak of sea level performance before going to altitude; as a corollary to this, if someone is not trained, does he in fact train faster at altitude? Does a person reach his peak faster at altitude?

Something else that occurred to me as a natural historian was this: does the performance of an athlete at a given moment — and, after all performance is a fairly momentary affair — depend to some extent on his whole past history. Does a past history that includes some altitude training or altitude experience, contribute to the total training?

These are merely additional questions, and I do not think the answers can be directly “Yes” or “No”.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

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Chairman's Introductory Remarks

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