EDITORIAL

Varied topics are featured in this issue, again illustrating the broad spectrum encompassed by sports medicine. The papers on upper limb injuries in rock climbing and the case report of pancreatic trauma during karate, stress the importance of careful history taking and physical examination. When this is overlooked there is likely to be delay in diagnosis and hence, treatment. This point is again emphasised in the correspondence concerning pneumothorax in a soccer player.

With so many sponsored events being undertaken it is salutary to be reminded that cost effectiveness should be considered, particularly in the dangerous activity of parachute jumping. Indeed, several months prior to receiving the manuscript, a local jump was called off after correspondence in the British Medical Journal (Jessop, J. H., 1985, Fallen angels: how not to raise money for charity, BMJ 2911, 282) illustrated that this could be a costly exercise with significant morbidity.

Although we are all aware of the value of exercise and avoidance of obesity as health tenets, it is valuable to have

evidence of the improved functional capacity in the moderately obese when these factors are acted upon.

Correspondence should be a valuable area for exchange of ideas and voicing opinions. With the many marathons taking part in this country each year, and the increasing number of participants, there are likely to be more collapsed competitors. Although the correspondents may agree to differ, it is important that the different causes are considered so that the appropriate management may be initiated. It is close collaboration between the clinician and the physiologist which will allow us to fully understand the metabolic consequences and potential pathological states that can arise in some individuals during activity.

This Summer sees several major sporting events ranging from the World Cup in Mexico City, with the inherent problems of competing at altitude and, nearer home, the Commonwealth Games where members are involved at a practical level which will serve to illustrate the role of our Society in sports medicine.

W. N. Dodds

BOOK REVIEW

Title: DECOMPRESSION: DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS
Author: A. A. Buhlmann Translated by G. P. Michel
Publisher: Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, Tokyo. 1983
 Price: \$14.20 or DM 36 ISBN 3-540-13308-9

This monograph is in essence a "compare and contrast" approach to the modelling of gas uptake and release under conditions of increased environmental pressure, with passing attention to the variations involved when mountains and flying are concerned, for healthy divers and those needing therapeutic compression. The comparison of the Zurich Laboratory with those in the UK, USA and France is essentially based on the concepts of J. S. Haldane of tissues of varying half-times and over-saturation tolerance using several gasses concurrently as derived from experience and experiment. This approach has been described as a little less empiricism and a little more theory but still empirical. For the specialist this volume is essential but very heavy reading because the translation is convoluted and not helped by minor errors in proof reading.

D. E. Mackay

BOOK REVIEW

Title: SPORTS TRAINING DIARY
Publisher: Sefair, 2 East Cliff, Folkestone, Kent
 Pre-publication price £3.50, normal price £4.99

This diary contains a number of sections on aspects about which the novice athlete should be aware.

It will perhaps record six months of training sessions for the average athlete and could be useful if the athlete uses it correctly.

D. P. Chapman

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