Time off work is shown in Table III.

A total of 384 people lost a total of 1,515 days which is an average of 3.95 days/person.

Discussion

The response to the postal survey was low and does not lead us to make firm conclusions. In view of the deliberate efforts made by us we were surprised by this low response. In our consecutive study we had included all sport related injuries no matter how casually sustained or trivial in nature. We suspect many of those in these categories disregarded the importance of the questionnaire. We believe that there is a general lethargy in responding to questionnaires.

However, of the response we did have, the following is of interest. It would appear that the vast majority of patients who replied were satisfied with the treatment which they received in our Accident and Emergency Department.

There was surprisingly little time lost off work, an average of 3.95 days compared to the time lost off sport

which was 23.15 days. Nevertheless, it is a significant number of days lost from work considering the reason for absenteeism was participation in leisure activity.

We believe it is important and there is a need to assess the outcome of treatment given to a particular group of patients in an Accident and Emergency Department. The postal survey carried out for consecutive sports related injury was not satisfactory in doing so in our area.

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References

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BOOK REVIEW

Title: 1985 YEAR BOOK OF SPORTS MEDICINE
Editors: J. L. Krakauer, J. L. Anderson, F. George, R. J. Shephard and J. S. Torg
Publishers: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc., Chicago. UK Agents — Blackwell Scientific, Oxford
 Price £41.00 hardback 498 pages Subject and author indices ISBN 0-8151-5159-4 ISSN 0162-0908

The growth of interest in sports medicine is mirrored by the increase in the number of articles abstracted, an increase of forty pages compared with the 1984 edition and ninety pages compared with the 1981 edition. This is the seventh annual edition of this most useful reference work and contains abstracts of approximately one page derived from articles published up to the end of 1984. The papers included are in the fields of exercise physiology, general medicine, biomechanics, trauma, and special groups such as women and children. Although they include an increasing number from the UK the majority are from the USA. Special attention has been paid to injuries in boxing, a sport the editors appear to want banned, and to decalcification of bone in post-menopausal women and in young women who are amenorrhoeic.

I consider that the year books are a most useful means of keeping up to date and of finding sources easily for research workers and clinicians. Annual subscription should be an essential library expenditure for any institution where there is a sports medicine or exercise physiology unit. The review copy will be lodged, with other BASM books, in the library of the London Sports Medicine Institute at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Charterhouse Square.

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