EDITORIAL

It is with a mixture of sadness and excitement at the future prospects for the Journal under the able guidance of Dr. Peter Sperryn the new Editor that I put pen to paper for the last Editorial which I shall write. It is appropriate that this edition contains a historical review of the Journal by the longest standing Editor Dr. Henry Robson, whose record in this post will, I am sure, never be beaten.

Of great interest to the elite sports person is loss of form and indeed a session was devoted to this subject at the recent, very successful BASM Congress at Gleneagles. It is, therefore, of interest to publish the article by Dr. Roberts and colleagues looking prospectively at a group of track and field athletes. Although a relatively small group there was no relationship between serological evidence of recent virus infection and reduced performances, for those viruses studied. However, one must remember that there are an infinite number of viruses the majority of which cannot yet be looked for serologically so comments can only apply to those viruses studied.

There is an interesting article on soft tissue injuries in extreme rock climbers which complements the report by Bannister and Foster which was published in this Journal in 1986. No longer is rock climbing a weekend pastime, for some individuals may now participate for many hours per

week with the result that over-use injuries are appearing.

The article by Williams and Colleagues provides useful information in failing to show benefit from caffeine ingestion under the conditions studied. This may discourage elite competitors from over-indulgence and running into problems with doping regulations.

Adrianne and I thank readers for their support in recent years and would like to express our good wishes to Peter Sperryn in his new undertaking and are confident that both the Journal and the Association will benefit from his experience and enthusiasm.

Wendy Dodds

Applications are invited from any Medical Practitioner with practical experience of team-care and who has been qualified for a minimum of five years for the post of Medical Officer to the British Team for the World Student Games in Sao Paulo in August 1989. The Chief Medical Officer has already been appointed. Applications, including three copies of a CV stating relevant experience, should be sent to, The British Students Sports Federation, 28 Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AD.

Applicants should include the names and addresses of two referees with their applications.

BRITISH JOURNAL OF SPORTS MEDICINE — HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

I am beginning to realise in a small way what a mother must feel when she lets her child be adopted. A feeling of emptiness should be offset by the hope that this course should be the best thing for the offspring. After over a quarter of a century the British Association of Sport and Medicine have agreed to relinquish publication of their own journal and to let it be "adopted" by a commercial publisher, and one of high repute amongst medical journals.

During the early 1960s it was felt that there should be a publication outlet for the reporting of proceedings of meetings. At first proceedings of meetings held at Loughborough College of Education were printed in the College's own journal. Subsequently the Physical Education Association brought out a Sports Medicine Issue once a year, including our proceedings as well as some original articles, and generously provided each member of BASM with a copy. By 1964 we decided to produce our own membership Bulletin, three or four issues a year, which was sent to all members of the Association. Apart from conference proceedings, there were a few original articles and some reprinted with permission from other journals, but written mostly by our own members. Within two years however we received enough original material for our needs. The original editor was Roy James, a lecturer in Physical Education at the Goldsmiths' College, London. During this time he, together with Lew Blonstein, Alan Bass and John G. P. Williams, edited the proceedings of BASM's two-day conference on Medical Aspects of Boxing (published by Pergamon Press). It should have been a wonderful public relations exercise for BASM, with extensive newspaper and television coverage, but President Kennedy's assassination took place during the first day of the conference and the most easily accessible TV teams were the sports units covering the conference. On the

second day when the real fight, Summerskill vs. the ABA, took place the press gallery was empty!

Early in 1967 pressures of work and other factors forced Roy to resign as editor and John Williams, then Assistant Secretary of BASM asked me to help him to publish the next issue of the Bulletin for which copy was collected but not edited. A new printer had to be found and Wells and Blackwell Ltd. of Loughborough agreed to act in this capacity and quoted a reasonable price. The Managing Director and his staff guided us in methods of journal production and circulation, and taught me a great deal about the techniques of printing and the reproduction of illustrations. After one issue under the combined editorship John Williams went to the USA for a year on a Churchill Fellowship, so I assumed the post of sole editor for the next twenty years. In 1968 the title was changed to the British Journal of Sports Medicine, incorporating the Bulletin of the British Association of Sport and Medicine, and the journal was registered at Stationers' Hall. It was also awarded its ISSN, the international code for all journals registered worldwide.

In 1970 BASM organised the 18th World Congress of Sports Medicine at Oxford and the Proceedings were published as a special number of the Journal. Each Congress delegate was sent a copy, and many more were sold in the UK and abroad. During the 1970s and 80s the revenue from external sales increased significantly and, together with advertising, back issues and reprints, equalled the subscription income from members.

As well as the World Congress, proceedings of other symposia of interest were published as special numbers. In 1969, "The Athlete's Knee"; "Doping in Sport" in 1970 "Risks of Weight Lifting and Training in Young People";

1973 "Training and the Young Person"; 1974 "Collected Papers on Exercise Physiology — Proc. Salford University Symposium"; "Altitude Training"; 1975 "Future of Sports Medicine in Britain" and "Anabolic Steroids in Sport". In 1976 we were asked to publish the proceedings of an international conference on "Detection of Doping in Horse Racing" held at Newmarket. I was invited to attend, and had a good insight into an aspect of sports (veterinary) medicine that showed the effect of major financial support in a professional industry. At the suggestion of Ernst Jokl, another collection of papers on exercise physiology celebrated the 90th birthday of the great Cambridge exercise physiologist, A. V. Hill, and later that year a number on "Cardiology related to Exercise" was produced. Developments in steroid detection led to another symposium on this subject, proceedings printed in 1977, and in 1978 "Exercise and the Adolescent". To celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Association, a special number was published on a variety of topics contributed solely by the members of the Editorial Board. The sports medicine symposium held in Exeter and sponsored by the Boots Company was published in 1980, as was a special number to honour the retirement of our co-founder and President, Lord Porritt. The following year the Wembley Conference, sponsored by Upjohn, was published, and in 1984 the proceedings of the pre-London Marathon symposium. In latter years, as attendance at meetings tended to be poor, few symposia were held, and instead BASM started their annual residential congresses at Birmingham, 1984 and 1985; Southampton, 1986; Liverpool, 1987 and in 1988 at Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire. Short papers were presented by those attending the first three, and abstracts were printed afterwards.

In 1974 it was decided that an Editorial Board be formed, essentially to constitute a panel of referees to read and report upon submitted manuscripts. At first there were six members appointed by the Executive Committee of BASM, plus Chairman, Secretary and Editor ex-officio. The original members were Prof. Arnold Beckett (Doping detection), Dr. Ernest Hamley (Physiology), Dr. John Kane (Physical Education and Psychology), Surgeon Rear Admiral Stanley Miles (Respiratory and Underwater Medicine) and Dr. Dan Tunstall Pedoe (Cardiology). The expertise of the ex-officio officers filled the gaps of Orthopaedics and Rheumatology/Rehabilitation. The Board was increased in 1980 by the inclusion of Mrs. Margaret John (Physiotherapy) and Prof. Harry Thomason (Physical Education and Sports Science), and Stanley Miles was appointed Chairman of the Board, with responsibility for the final refereeing and acceptance of manuscripts. He had to relinquish this post in 1985 through his terminal illness, and the membership of the Board was increased to include Mr. Basil Helal, the former Chairman (Orthopaedics), Mr. F. Michael Holliday (Statistics), Dr. Clyde

Williams (Sports Science), Mr. Michael Harding (Orthopaedics) and Dr. Peter Sperryn (Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, formerly Hon. Sec. BASM). Clyde Williams undertook the duties of Associate Editor, and a year later was replaced by Dr. Adrienne Hardman in the same department of Loughborough University, who took responsibility for papers on exercise physiology, while Dr. Wendy Dodds (Rheumatology) looked after clinical papers. I retired from the post of Editor and replaced Stanley Miles as Chairman of the Board, Adrienne and Wendy now being Joint Editors.

In 1978 we participated in a workshop on editing conference proceedings, and joined the European Life Science Editors' Association, getting the chance to meet and exchange views with the editors of other medical and biological journals in the UK and abroad. Although our journal (together with nearly all the others) was criticised by the experts it was the only one to have all its sample display copies stolen, so we regard that as a compliment! Of course we have received criticisms over the years, much of it justified, but we have tried to keep a balance between being too clinical/not clinical enough; too scientific/not scientific enough; too biased to "high-tec" hospital medicine/not enough grass roots "how to do it"/too elementary for the expert. Letters with compliments far outweigh the adverse ones and we try to please as many readers as possible while maintaining a reasonably high standard. Research workers bringing out revolutionary new discoveries or surgeons developing new operative techniques are not going to produce news of a major break-through in a sports medicine journal rather than in the specialist journals in their own restricted field. We have also had to keep costs low, and elected not to fall into the trap of having a small amount of editorial material swamped by advertisements.

We wish to thank most sincerely the members of the Editorial Board and the many others who have refereed articles and reviewed books. I wish to pay special thanks to Clyde Williams and my secretary Olga Harris who kept up production of the journal (and ran the Association) while I was ill in hospital, and afterwards to Adrienne Hardman and Wendy Dodds who have done such an excellent job as editors in the past three years. We also owe a debt of gratitude to the printers, at first Wells and Blackwell, but when their printing business was taken over, to their successors Barrow Reprographics of Loughborough. I could not have managed during the past ten years without clerical help, and most of the business side of the journal has been in the capable hands of Olga Harris.

We are now about to hand our "baby" over to Butterworth Scientific Ltd. with a new editor, Dr. Peter Sperryn, a new editorial board and no doubt a new editorial policy. We wish the journal all success for the future.

H. E. Robson