EDITORIAL

In presenting the final Proceedings of the Eighteenth World Congress of Sports Medicine, we have adopted the Organising Committee's policy of publishing only those papers presented personally at the meeting. We had created the precedent of arranging the academic programme in as flexible a way as possible to try and stimulate personal contact and discussion. We believe this led to a less formal but more happy occasion and that the prime objective of forming new academic friendships was achieved.

Much difficulty was caused by the late registration or non-attendance of many delegates and the delayed presentation of manuscripts, which themselves were often very different from the preliminary abstracts. Because of these reasons it has proved impossible to finance a separate bound Proceedings with full translations. In publishing this special volume of the British Journal of Sports Medicine we have secured circulation of the Oxford Proceedings to over double the number of attending delegates at the Congress, and we hope that the addresses of delegates whose communications appear in this journal will help to maintain the links already formed.

We have endeavoured to obtain accuracy in the printing of the manuscripts, and have sent proofs back to each author for correction. Some proofs have not been returned to us at the time of going to press, so we have done our best to eliminate error in text and illustrations. Original photographs and drawings shall be returned to authors in due course. Attempts have been made to trace the new addresses of those who have moved their home or place of work since the Congress, but we cannot accept responsibility for sending the Proceedings to those who have failed to keep the Secretariat informed of any such changes.

Where possible, an abstract precedes each article, and a selection of the most important illustrations is incorporated. Many communications were, however, prepared only for verbal transmission at the Congress, and were not in a form suitable for printing, so the abstract only is included. Other communications were condensed from the author's previously published work, would infringe copyright if reproduced, but reference is made to these works. We have tried to avoid printing any material upon which copyright exists, but if we have transgressed inadvertently, we offer our sincere apologies.

It is with regret that we learnt of the deaths of three of our most distinguished delegates; Prof. Paul Chailley-Bert, Prof. Michio Ikai and Dr. Zdeněk Hornof. Their obituaries are printed with their articles below.

We wish to thank most warmly our colleagues on the Organising Committee for their great help throughout the past three years in sharing the burden of arranging and publishing the Congress programme.

We would also like to thank the printers, Messrs. Wells and Blackwell, for the great care and interest they have shown, even to the extent of buying new equipment and training staff to cope with the often difficult photographs and slides from which the figures were made, and for having to read manuscripts in many different languages.

P. N. SPERRY
Secretary of the Academic Programme

JOINT EDITORS

H. E. ROBSON
Congress Treasurer