Editorial

In March 1964 comments were sought of the British Olympic Association on the question of medical examination and testing of the British Olympic Team as part of an International venture to set up the Olympic Medical Archives. The British Association of Sport and Medicine was approached and as a result of discussions between the B. A. S. M. and the British Olympic Association it was decided to go ahead and attempt the appropriate studies of volunteers from the British Olympic Team.

The Olympic Medical Archives is conceived as an avenue through which great strides can be made to better the health of mankind. Disease its causes and treatment have been studied through the centuries, a concerted effort should now be made to study Health, its attainment and retention. The study of complete standardised lifetime medical records of Olympic contestants who would volunteer to take part, would be an important step towards this aim. Ample records of the sick are available, but there is a dearth of lifetime records of the 'finest group of physical specimens in the world the Olympic athletes'. The data gathered from such studies would help establish adult norms for the highest level of physical fitness.

On June 7th 1963 The Federation Internationale de Medicine Sportive at Lausanne proposed the formation of the Olympic Medical Archives. It is intended that this be a non profit organisation, international in scope and operation. It will provide permanent housing and facilities for the filing analysing and classifying of the records of the Athletes. A lifelong registry of the athletes participating will be maintained, the studies being updated by periodic examinations of the same Olympians and the data will be made available to qualified investigators the world over.

International Sport is one of the greatest phenomena of the last 50 years, never has a state risen so swiftly to world power as has Sport. The Modern Olympic Games are of great importance to the participant and to the world at large. The Ancient Games devoted to the worship of Zeus can be replaced with the ideal of service to mankind in preventative medicine. Thus the Modern Games outstanding in their own right can assume additional significance by aiding Science.

Perhaps the future hope of the World lies more in mutual understanding among peoples, than in any political formula or military alliance, and it would be well to remember that they can also serve who merely run, and jump and throw.