The first important step is of course to get proper statistics of the injuries in each sport, and like yourself I am very concerned about the injuries in Rugby football, and feel that there should be statutory duties laid down by a doctor associated with the sport to ensure that all deaths and unacceptable injuries such as paraplegias and traumatic encephalopathy are reported to headquarters. There are so many branches of Sports Medicine in other countries, particularly in sports psychology, which tend to be neglected in this country, that the only solution I can envisage would be a Diploma in Sports Medicine, quite apart from the Diploma in Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, and certainly worthy of more than being one of the six elected special subjects taken in the new diploma of the Conjoint Board. I had felt that the ideal place for a Diploma would be a University Medical School in conjunction with a specialist physical education college where so much of the field work is now being done. I am well aware of the efforts made by you and your associates in the courses you ran at Loughborough College, Brunel and Jordanhill.

Thank you for sending me the issue of your journal on the detection of doping in race horses. As you may well know, horses being more valuable than their riders are better looked after, and at every race course there are fully qualified veterinary surgeons, whereas our race course medical officers are not usually specialists in traumatology; they serve in a voluntary capacity. My aim would be that a diplomate in Sports Medicine should be required as a visiting specialist.

Yours sincerely,

Frank d'Abreu, Ch.M., F.R.C.S.

RUGBY INJURIES

3 Niblo Place
Australian Capital Territory 2611

Dear Sir,

I read with great interest the statistics related to rugby injuries in the report by T. Durkin, *Brit.J.Sp.Med.* 11:1 1977, particularly as I played first grade football between 1953 and 1964. It is surprising to find that the members of the "engine room", i.e. the second row lock forwards, had the least number of reported injuries particularly when one considers the great strain exerted in set scrums. I believe that research needs to be carried out on the effect on the spine of stress related to scrummaging. I suggest this because recent X-Rays on a second row forward's spine have shown degeneration in the levels T12-L1 and L5-S1 with mechanical instability at the lumbo sacral joint.

Yours sincerely,

Barrie Abrahams

AREA ASSOCIATIONS OF B.A.S.M.

Dr. James W. Walker
31, Cockney Hill
Tilehurst, READING
Berks. RG3 4H
Tel: 28208

6th June 1977

Dear Sir,

May I appeal through your correspondence column to any members of the British Association of Sport and Medicine, to contact me with view to forming an Area Association? Apart from the Journal and occasional attendance at courses, I feel somewhat isolated in my interest. I imagine that there must be several likeminded members from all our professional disciplines who would welcome the chance of meeting together.

I would be most pleased to hear from them with their views regarding the formation of such an association together with suggestions for its title. I would then convene a meeting to initiate discussions as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

James W. Walker

Will anyone interested in the Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire area please contact Dr. Walker Editor B.J.S.M.