OBITUARY

Dr. JOSEPH LEWIS BLONSTEIN, OBE, MRCS, LRCP, DIH

Amateur boxing nowadays is a safe sport, with the strictest medical control of any sport, and this is due largely to the efforts of Lew Blonstein, who died on the 2nd of February, 1978, at the age of 74. Lew qualified from University College, London, in 1926, and last year he celebrated his Golden Jubilee in his practice in Clapham. His contributions to sports medicine have been substantial. As representative of the Amateur Boxing Association, he was a founder member of B.A.S.M., and served on the Executive Committee for many years. In 1970 the Association, in appreciation of his services, made him an Honorary Life Member. He has made many contributions to the British Journal of Sports Medicine, his last being in June 1977, and was a co-editor of our Proceedings of the two-day symposium on Medical Aspects of Boxing, held at Goldsmiths' College in 1963.

As Senior Medical Officer to the A.B.A., and President of the Medical Commission of the Amateur International Boxing Association, he promoted many reforms such as the use of mouth guards to prevent cerebral injury, the routine use of the electro-encephalogram after a knock-out, the compulsory count of seven after a knock-down, compulsory lay-off after a knock-out, and retirement before the punch-drunk syndrome could develop. He travelled widely, to Olympic and Commonwealth Games, wherever they were held, to most major international boxing events, and was usually at the ring-side, working hard, in many minor competitions, playing the undramatic role at local as well as international level. Apart from boxing, he was an enthusiastic squash racquets player, and made many contributions to the medical care and safety of the squash player. Altogether, Lew's death is a sad blow for sport, and also for his many friends in sports medicine and elsewhere.

H. E. Robson

OBITUARY

Dr. NICOLAS PAPARESCOS, M.D.

The death of Dr. Nicolas Paparescos in the Autumn of 1977 will leave a big gap in the international field of sports medicine. For many years he was the National Delegate to F.I.M.S. for Greece, and "Big Nik" was the dynamic extrovert who livened up the World Congresses at Mexico City in 1968 and Oxford in 1970. He also managed to attend other meetings in Britain during the time I knew him, and invariably he was helpful and generous. He was an instigator of the F.I.M.S. Sports Medicine Courses that were held in Greece, and always made any British delegate most welcome. He became a member of B.A.S.M. in 1970. We extend our deep sympathy to his widow, who used to accompany him on many of his overseas trips, and to his family.

H. E. Robson