

## NOTICE

### FITNESS AND INJURY IN SPORT

On Saturday, May 24th, Liverpool Polytechnic in conjunction with the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Sports Medicine are holding a one day seminar.

Further details from: Ms. P. Edwards, MA,  
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Byrom Street,  
Liverpool

## OBITUARY

### Sir Ludwig Guttmann, CBE, MD, FRCS, FRCP, DCh, LLD, OStJ

As this issue of our Journal was in final proof stages, we learnt, with great regret, of the death of Sir Ludwig Guttmann, on 18th March, 1980.

When I was a very junior Orthopaedic House Surgeon in 1947, I first learnt of the entirely new approach to the treatment of spinal cord injuries. Working in the Durham coal fields and shipyards, we saw only too many, and it was always regarded as the only help for the young paraplegic patient, for whom we could do little, if he were to be sent to the Spinal Injuries Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, under the care of Dr. Guttmann. I regarded it as a great privilege to meet Dr. Guttmann some years later, when I first became involved in sports medicine, and later we served together on the Executive Committee of the British Association of Sport and Medicine.

Sir Ludwig qualified MD at the University of Freiburg in 1924, but came to Britain during the inter-war years. He gained the MRCP in 1947, and was elected FRCP in 1962, having taken the FRCS the previous year. Many honorary degrees showed the world's regard for him. DCh Durham University, 1961, LLD Dublin 1969, DSc Liverpool, 1971. Emeritus-Professor, University of Cologne, Emeritus President of the International Medical Society for Paraplegia, and member of many scientific societies. He also wrote many articles concerning spinal cord injuries and provided the first glimmer of hope for those severely disabled people who were being returned to the community. After retraining and with some suitable ancillary aids many of them were able to take up suitable employment once again and be wage earning members of the community.

Sir Ludwig's schemes of rehabilitation concentrated upon a maximum physical activity of which unparalysed muscles were capable, and he was instrumental in adapting very many strenuous sports for the severely disabled, and a 4 yearly international competition under general Olympic rules adapted especially for the disabilities of the competitors. Even after his retirement from active clinical work, he devoted an enormous amount of energy to the paraplegic games, not only in the United Kingdom, but all over the world.

He became a member of the British Association of Sport and Medicine in 1954, until his retirement in 1975, but he reformed his links with us again two years ago, when he was nominated by the Institute of Sports Medicine as their official representative to the Executive Committee of the British Association of Sport and Medicine.

Much of our changed outlook on the rehabilitation of the severely injured was pioneered by Sir Ludwig, and no knighthood has been bestowed upon anyone who deserved it more.

**H. E. Robson**