In the last number of the Journal, members and external Journal subscribers were warned that subscription rises, still held at the 1975 level, which was calculated in 1974, are inevitable. The new rates will be put to the Annual General Meeting later this year, and then announced in the Journal, when new Bankers Order forms will be enclosed. It is to be hoped that members and subscribers will regard this notice as sufficient to act upon, as the cost in both secretarial time and postage is now a major item. We can only stamp four small letters to Australia for a pound, and UK letters cost almost half a crown in real money. The need for unnecessary invoicing and receipts is one of the factors leading to the need for higher subscriptions.

OBITUARY

Dr. Denis John Cussen, MA, MD

Dr. Denis Cussen died in December, 1980 at the age of 79 years.

Dr. Cussen was an Irishman and was born in Newcastle West in Limerick in 1901, and following his schooldays at Blackrock, graduated in medicine at Trinity College, Dublin in 1925. After a distinguished career at T.C.D., he did house jobs at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington before becoming school doctor at Harrow School, where he coached the Rugby football team. After this, he became a general practitioner in Surbiton for 8 years until joining the Army in 1943, where he became the first Army Specialist in Physical Medicine, with the rank of Major. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine, Dublin University, in 1946. Following his Army service, he returned to general practice for a short time, but was soon disillusioned with the N.H.S., and joined the Medical Department of Shell, where he remained until retiring in 1962. He was, however, still active and energetic and became a member of the medical staff of B.O.A.C., where he was to remain for a further 12 years.

The extent of his achievements in sport were unknown by many people, even his friends, owing to his innate modesty, but I do know that his feats on the Rugby field and on the running track, both at T.C.D. and nationally were legendary and are still remembered. He was capped 15 times for Ireland as a wing three-quarter, his greatest feat being in the famous victory of Ireland over England in 1926, when he scored three tries. As a sprinter he was Irish 100 yards champion in 1921, 1922, 1925 and 1928, his time on the last occasion being 9.8 seconds, which was not only an Irish record for a grass track, but also equalled the World Record. As if these achievements were not enough, he was National 220 yards winner in 1921, and was also a shot putter and boxed for T.C.D.

In the field of sports medicine he was a Founder Member of B.A.S.M., and was Honorary Secretary from 1955-1965, holding the joint office of Secretary/Treasurer until 1962. He did an immense amount of work to further the cause of sports medicine, and many of the meetings he organised were of great interest — I well remember the Symposium on the relationship between Sport and Ballet, which gave many of us an insight into the rigours of Ballet which we had not appreciated before.

After his resignation from the secretarshipship of B.A.S.M., he became Honorary Treasurer to the Institute of Sports Medicine, which post he held until his death. He declined honorary life membership of B.A.S.M., insisting on supporting the Association with his subscription, and was elected a Vice-President in 1978.

He was a likeable, pleasant person, with a ready wit and keen sense of humour, but quiet and modest to an extent that few people were aware of even a small fraction of his achievements in sport.

He will be sorely missed in those circles where doctors and sportsmen meet with a common interest, and I count myself fortunate to have had the privilege of his friendship for almost thirty years.

J. Raymond Owen