EDITORIAL

The interest in sports injuries clinics continues to grow in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, so the Executive Committee of the British Association of Sport and Medicine are planning a symposium on the founding and running of such clinics, in a period of great financial stringency. The time and place for this meeting will be announced later, but those with experience in setting up such centres will be invited to prepare accounts of their work and submit them to the Honorary Secretary, so that a selection of speakers can be made, and perhaps a special issue of this journal be devoted to the subject after the meeting has taken place. The support given to such schemes varies from allocation of casualty or outpatient time for seeing sportsmen within the National Health Service framework to private insurance with the unusual encouragement of paying a fee to the general practitioner for referring the patient. University Health services support some, others have the help of drug companies, some by the Local Authority, and a few by private practice.

The date and place for the BASM’s Annual General Meeting have also to be fixed. Illness has caused the postponement of a meeting on neck injuries in sport, which was planned to be held in conjunction with the AGM, so other plans will have to be put into operation, and members will be notified as soon as possible. One item of business that must be discussed is the rates of subscriptions for all classes of membership and for external sales of the Journal. It is becoming increasingly difficult to pay our way through subscriptions that were decided in 1974. Costs of journal production have more than doubled, postage has trebled, the increased volume of work has made the employment of secretarial help necessary, but subscriptions and sponsorship have remained at the 1974 level. It would appear that doubling the rate of subscriptions would not seem unreasonable.

There are also some vacancies for members of the Executive Committee, under the existing Constitution, so names of new members should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, signed by the proposer and seconder, and counter signed by the person proposed. All of these should, of course, be members of the BASM. Discussions are still taking place over the redrafting of the Constitution, but are not ready for submission to the AGM yet.

This issue of the journal starts with an extensive multi-author study of the nutrition of Irish athletes, though the results of recommendations would seem applicable to most of North-west Europe. Enthusiasm for outdoor pursuits is not without hazards, and Baker and Atha describe some of the neurophysiological effects of cold immersion in canoeists, which will also be found in children sailing dinghies even close to the beach in a cool summer, and may be a factor in the causation of many unnecessary deaths. A survey of injuries in Nigerian games players is included; the stresses of trying to get endurance records in the Guinness Book are analysed by Reilly and Walsh, and MacLellan and Vyvyan describe the use of plastic heel inserts for subcalcaneal pain and some Achilles tendon lesions. Two papers are presented as Techniques; the improvised inexpensive method developed in India for teaching and research into anaerobic exercise, and in contrast the computerised apparatus for making accurate measurements of cyclical types of movement that simple observation often fails to do.

We welcome some 85 new members to the Association, and many new external library subscribers. Again attempts are made to give adequate notice of forthcoming events, but are dependant upon information being sent WELL IN ADVANCE. Four weeks notice is totally inadequate for a quarterly journal.

In the last issue, two errors were made that we have been asked to rectify. The review of Jim Fixx’s Second Book of Running by Dr. Wendy Dodds should have read “another addition to the current boom in popular books on running” and not “dearth of”. Dr. Dodds had just flown to New Zealand, and the proofs did not reach her until publication. Dr. J. P. Sparks has pointed out that a table was omitted from his survey of half a million hours of Rugby football and the missing table is printed in this number. We offer our apologies for these errors.