

## OBITUARY

**Dr. George Gordon Browning, OBE, FRFPS, FRCP, DPH  
The President, British Association of Sport and Medicine**

On May 27th we were informed of the very recent death of Dr. George Browning, that marks the end of an era for our Association, and for rehabilitation medicine in Scotland. George qualified in medicine in 1934 at the University of Glasgow, was elected Fellow of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in 1942, gained the Diploma of Public Health in 1953, membership of the Royal College of Physicians in 1962 and elected to the Fellowship two years later. Early in his career he became involved in rehabilitation, both of the casualties that formed the aftermath of the second world war, and the victims of industrial and road accidents and disabling illness. He was appointed Consultant in Physical Medicine to the Western Regional Hospital Board of Scotland, with his main base in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, until his retirement in 1977. Retirement gave him more opportunities to devote his energy to the work of the British Red Cross and to committee work for the improvement of rehabilitation facilities throughout the west of Scotland.

His contribution to the British Association of Sport and Medicine was enormous. He had been a distance runner in his younger days, and was a pioneer in the use of sport and rehabilitation, so was an obvious choice for Chairman of the newly formed Scottish Area of BASM in 1964, held until the beginning of this year when ill health forced him to hand over this responsibility to Dr. James Moncur. In the middle 1960s the team of Browning and Moncur permitted BASM to make a big impact into medicine in Scotland, being the recognised advisory body for medical aspects of sport for the Commonwealth Games held in Edinburgh in 1970, and later for supporting medical services for Sports Centres. The activities of the Scottish Area BASM were the envy of the parent body, and when Sir Arthur Porritt relinquished the Chairmanship of BASM on his appointment as Governor General of New Zealand, Dr. Browning was elected to succeed him in 1968. Soon after taking office, the new chairman had to supervise the early arrangements for the 1970 World Congress of Sports Medicine, run by BASM in Oxford, and attended the many committee meetings needed, both for the Congress business and for the general business of BASM, at the same time being involved in the medical services of the Commonwealth Games organisation. By the time the World Congress opened George Browning was recognised as a leading figure in International Sports Medicine, and was elected a Full Member of FIMS. During the many minor crises that beset an international meeting, the Chairman's tact and efficiency prevented any feelings of conflict, and his presence in the conference hall, in College and at the various social events was a major factor in the smooth running and success of the congress. At the next World Congress, held in Melbourne in 1974, Dr. Browning was our National Delegate, and he also represented our Association at meetings in Canada and New Zealand. Soon after Lord Porritt relinquished the Presidency of BASM Dr. Browning succeeded him, and died in office.

During Dr. Browning's chairmanship the Association increased its membership five-fold, and the business of Executive Committee meetings, meetings with other organisations such as the Institute of Sports Medicine and the Royal Colleges involved him in frequent journeys between Glasgow and London, as well as his many visits to Edinburgh and other Scottish cities. He was a very good chairman of committee, and managed to make balanced and fair decisions in a group of strong and sometimes conflicting personalities. Repeated attacks of ischaemic heart disease curtailed his activities a little, but after each, he was soon back to work, travelling the length of Britain and still visiting overseas countries on our behalf. We will all miss a good friend and helpful counsellor. We sent our deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

**H. E. Robson**