EDITORIAL

With another Olympiad imminent, we again see the ideals of Baron de Courbetin blasted by the politicians; following the Black Power clenched fist "salutes" of Mexico, 1968, there was the appalling massacre of the Israeli team in 1972 at Munich, the walkout of many African teams just before the Games started in Montreal in 1976, the discouragement of the countries of the West from going to Moscow in 1980, as a protest against the invasion of Afghanistan, and now, not unexpectedly, the retaliation of the Warsaw Pact countries plus Cuba and other satellites in their boycott of Los Angeles in 1984. Fortunately such political manoeuvring does not seem to affect the Winter Olympics. Ideas have been put forward to try to eliminate such nationalistic and ideological aggression, but are unlikely to be feasible, administratively or financially. The environs of Mount Olympus in Greece would be a traditional and sentimental choice, but would the Turks, the Bulgarians, Albanians and Yugoslavs come, let alone the Arab nations? Would it be worth while erecting the necessary facilities and supporting accommodation to be used only once, every four years? An Olympic Republic, set up on an island and independent of any existing nation, would be a pleasant prospect, but who would police it? Defend it? What would it be its official language? (Esperanto never really caught on).

Even if such an independent island could be found, if journalists and politicians could be excluded, and participants would enter as individuals rather than as national teams, would this really obliterate all political-economic affiliation, or would we hear the announcer reading out the finalists as, for example, "The finals of the heavy-weight weight lifting event are Ivan Straviniski Scavour, representing the Dinabolski Peoples' Co-operative, versus Michael Muris the Second of the Ulkormone Company Inc."

Other examples of politicians interfering with sport involve South Africa, a country whose sportsmen never seem to be given a chance to attempt to alleviate apartheid in sport, neither by their own Government, nor by those of left-wing tendency, even if only slightly pink. The naturalisation of Zola Budd may be regarded with mixed feelings, but there is no possible justification for hooligans, however self-righteous, insulting, harassing and even terrorising a girl of only seventeen. The British used to be admired for their fair play, sportsmanship and gentlemanlike behaviour!

The Leicester Tigers Rugby Club have also been threatened by the "sportsmen" of Leicester City Council, who have said that they would refuse to renew this famous club's lease if they permitted any of their players to represent a British team in a tour of South Africa. I hope the club will be able to purchase a freehold site that would be exempt from such blackmail.

This number of the journal shows the first impact of the Associate Editor, Dr. Clyde Williams, who has been responsible for most of the papers on exercise physiology, leaving the shorter and much easier clinical papers for the Editor's attention, a division of responsibility accepted with gratitude. Most of the communications this time are from the United Kingdom; one physiological and two clinical papers come from Scandinavia, and one anatomical and physiological paper is from Western Australia.

POSTAL CODES Although many members and journal subscribers have given us their postal codes, many have not. We have heard from the Leicester Post Office that computer sorting will be used next year, so it would be appreciated if we could be notified of post codes so that outgoing mail can be sorted rapidly, and thus journals and other notices should be delivered more promptly.

We are also looking into the possibilities of computerising our own mailing list, subscriptions and other records, not only for providing regional organisers with lists of our members living locally, but also for finding people who might be interested in taking up posts as medical officers for clubs, touring teams or clinics, and for trying to find members willing to participate in "Medical Games" and other sporting events. Much of the geographical sorting will be done by means of the postal codes, easily transcribed on to the computer. Questionnaires will be circulated in due course to obtain these data when arrangements can be made to design the computer programme and find suitable computer facilities readily available to the officers of the Association responsible for circulating information.

"BASM CONGRESS '84" The Executive Committee of the British Association of Sport and Medicine have organised a residential in Birmingham, from Friday, 12th October until Sunday lunchtime, 14th October. The four main activities during the weekend will be scientific sessions for short communications, on both clinical and physiological topics; plenary sessions, which will include the Adolphe Abrahams Memorial Lecture to be delivered by the President of the International Federation of Sports Medicine, Prof. Ejnar Eriksson; the Association's Banquet and also the Annual General Meeting of the BASM. A new constitution is to be presented and discussed, and a draft will be circulated to members in advance with the usual reports, notices, agenda and accounts.

Accommodation, both residential and for the congress, has been reserved at the Strathallan Thistle Hotel, Hagley Road, to the north of the Medical School and Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The probable cost for members of BASM will be £75, and £90 for non-members. Facilities at a lower cost are available for non-residents, including those wishing to obtain residence in less expensive hostels, guest houses and hotels.

All members are urged to support this important event.