SECRETARIES' REPORT FOR SESSION OCTOBER 1965 - MARCH 1965.

Your Secretaries are pleased to report another record session with expansion of the Association's activities in many fields.

Membership continues to increase and total membership is now well over the five hundred mark. This increase has led to a parallel increase in the Association's revenues as mirrored in the statement of accounts, and to the presentation of a more ambitious programme of activities. It has remained your Committee's policy to use the income from subscriptions for central and administrative purposes and to finance special ventures, while relying on the ordinary meetings to be more or less self supporting.

In keeping with the growth and development of the Association, your Committee has given very detailed consideration to the Constitution (as promised at the last annual general meeting) and is presenting for your approval a draft of memorandum and articles of Association whereby by the appropriate processes of law your Association will undergo a metamorphosis into a Company limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital. At the same time your Committee has minuted certain changes in the administration of the Association whereby the work previously undertaken by the two secretaries and the treasurer will now be shared amongst them together with special membership, student membership, conference and overseas secretaries. The amount of work at present devolving upon the officers of the secretariat is now such as to make these changes absolutely necessary for the smooth running of the Association until such time as the Association can afford a paid full time secretary.

Members will note that there is a proposed increase in the rates of subscription. Your Committee would not wish it to be thought that these proposals are of any political significance, but they are forced upon the Association by the increase in cost of administration and the necessity to cover from its own funds all the expenses of the Association despite contemporary efforts to obtain revenue from other sources, for example from advertising. Your Committee feels that even if these changes are approved members will still be getting their money's worth!

Members will note that in all respects the new constitution will serve to regularise and expedite the conduct of the Association's business, and will, we are sure, desire that their appreciation of the work of Mr. Peter Sebastian in the drafting of this constitution should not pass unrecorded.

Turning now to the activities of the Association since our last report, we feel that there is some cause for satisfaction.
The much publicised conference on Medical Aspects of Boxing took place during November 1963 at the Goldsmiths' College, to the Principal and Staff of which we owe a debt of sincere gratitude. The conference attracted considerable attention in the national press and television, but was unfortunately overshadowed by the tragic death of the late President Kennedy. You will be glad to know that after many trials and tribulations, the proceedings of the conference are now generally available. Arrangements with the publishers (Pergamon Press) have ensured that subject to a reasonable display of interest on the part of our members and the country's boxing authorities, a reasonable profit can be made to offset some of the financial loss incurred in the presentation of this prestige meeting. Members are asked to assist in promoting the sale of copies of the proceedings of this conference by urging interested parties to obtain their copies through the Association. We are sure that members will be pleased to note that the conference itself was most expertly organised and managed by Mr. Roy James who also played an invaluable part in the preparation for publication of the proceedings.

The annual conference at Loughborough was for the first time made truly residential and developed into an unique family occasion with a most pleasant and intimate atmosphere. The conference itself, on Medical Aspects of Swimming and Diving was up to the usual high standard and it almost goes without saying that once again we are happy to record our thanks to your Treasurer, Dr. Henry Robson for his usual flawless organisation.

Our members further north were well catered for during the last session. Mr. Don Masterson and Mr. Harry Thomason assumed B.A.S.M. colours this time to run the Salford conference on Women in Sport and again we are pleased to report a success. In the North-East, Dr. Mike Keating and his colleagues got their Area Association off to a flying start with the conference at Billingham, while over the border the Scottish Area Association has made fantastic progress with the enthusiastic support and drive of Dr. Jimmy Moncur and his colleagues. To them all we offer our warmest congratulations and good wishes for the future.

Returning to London, the annual combined meeting with the Fitness and Training section of Ergonomics research society was held as usual in the autumn, the subject being the Athlete's heart. While we greatly value our connections with this society, we feel that some alteration in the form of our joint meetings must be made if they are to continue. Members who commented upon the running of the last meeting may rest assured that your Committee has the whole question under consideration.
In addition to holding meetings, members will have noticed that the Association has not been idle in other fields. With the help and co-operation of the Physical Education Association we were again able to contribute to the sports medicine edition of their journal. We have also launched our own Bulletin which is beginning to grow quite promisingly under the care of Mr. Roy James who has now been appointed Editorial Secretary with a seat on the Committee. We hope, with him, that members will like the new format and will support the Bulletin (as also the sports medicine edition of Physical Education) by sending in material for publication, including letters as well as papers and articles. We intend that future publication costs shall be to some extent offset by advertising, and members should not therefore be surprised to find advertising copy in subsequent issues.

During the session, the Association as such was able to take its stand on the issue of Doping of Athletes and produced its policy statement which attracted much attention both in this country and abroad. Your Committee is grateful to members who responded to the call for comment and criticism upon the draft of this policy - many of your suggestions were embodied in the final form of the statement.

We are proud to remind you that the Institute of Sports Medicine has now come into being under the joint sponsorship of your Association, the P.E.A. and the B.O.A. While still very much in embryo stage, it has already begun its work. Its provisional headquarters are at Ling House, the home of the Physical Education Association whither any enquiries should be addressed. Any member of the Association engaged in or considering research into any aspect of sports medicine is invited to approach the Institute for advice and assistance.

Your Association was responsible, thanks to a grant in aid from the British Olympic Association, for the examination and testing of Olympic Competitors for the Olympic Medical Archives, and we understand that the British contributed nearly ten percent of all the competitors tested, a happy achievement.

Of late, your Committee has accepted an invitation from the British Olympic Association to set up and be responsible for an Olympic Medical Advisory Committee. Members may be gratified to note that this Committee has already met to begin its difficult task.

Finally, we are happy to report a social event. Just before Easter last year, 100 members of the Italian Sport Medicine Federation and their
families visited London, and we were able to arrange a number of functions and visits for them including a reception at the Royal Society of Medicine. Judging by the comments of our guests in a later edition of their journal, Medicina Sportiva, they greatly enjoyed their visit.

Your Secretaries believe that their report on this occasion makes good reading, but lest we should all be lulled into a state of complacency, we feel it necessary to end our report with a word of warning. We are unhappy to note that far too many of our members do not appear to take part in the Association's activities. We would like to see more of them at meetings, to hear more of them in the way of comments and suggestions for future programmes and activities, and to receive more papers and articles from them for our publication, while we know that our Treasurer would like more of them to pay their subscriptions on time!

The Association is very fit, but if it is going to keep fit, the "training" must go on. And in the long run this is up to the members!