

9 Spence Street
Glasgow

subscription for those who at present give our services willingly.

To the Secretary of BASM:

Dear Mr. Chapman,

I have filled in the application form to transfer to BASM in its new form; while I have decided, meantime, to continue my long-standing membership of BASM, I have reservations about some of the points raised in Dr. Tunstall-Pedoe's letter of 31st May. The first sentence of his letter itself raises hackles. It could have been put more tactfully, as could some other bits of his letter.

The use of the term "professionalise" seems to me to imply (I hope this was not intended) that the present members of BASM are, or were, not professional in their approach to Medical Aspects of Sport and the disabilities arising from or associated with sport. This is simply *not true* for members of BASM in this part of the UK and some of them have been in BASM probably quite as long as yourself or the Chairman.

I am not alone in doubting the necessity for the mooted changes and "improvements". There are already enough professional bodies connected with the healing arts to which the present BASM members belong without adding yet another one with yet another heavy subscription. Some of us are now retired from gainful employment but I do not see any sign of a *realistically low* retired members

Centralised administration with a *paid secretary* (therefore secure in his tenure) can lead to creating a ruling dynasty with consequent decline in the level of peripheral interest and loyalty. Loyalty is usually greater to subgroup/region than to the group or central authority. It is vital to avoid even the appearance of central control over regional volunteers. Nor should central organisation be allowed to appear as a "Big Brother" — see No. 1 of the additional services offered in the Chairman's letter, para. 5. As we all have our own sporting activities, personal, or with our professional associations, I see little need to pay for No. 2 and No. 4 is rather like the petrol companies vouchers for wine glasses or soup mugs. Lower petrol prices would be better as would lower BASM subscriptions. The standard and pricing of the present journal which acts as an interface between surgical, physiological and other medical and scientific journals is about right and does not, in my view, call for any major change.

I regret I cannot attend the meetings on the 12th July. I should dearly have liked to speak rather than write this letter — please give my apologies.

Yours sincerely,

ARCHIBALD YOUNG (Snr), FRCSG

OBITUARY

Dr. Reginald Salisbury Woods, MA, MD, FRCS

Whenever "Sports Injuries" were discussed in Cambridge for over half a century, the name of Rex Salisbury Woods was bound to be in most people's thoughts, and not unnaturally he was a founder member of the British Association of Sport and Medicine, and elected to Honorary Life Membership in 1963. It is therefore with great regret that we learnt of his death on September 21st, a very few weeks after I had received a note from him telling me that at the age of 94¼ and after a stroke, he really felt it difficult to maintain an active interest in Sports Medicine. He attended many of our meetings, including some in recent years, and usually had searching questions to raise in discussion. He wrote an article on treatment of knee injuries for this journal (Vol. 4, 1969) which we reprinted to honour his 90th birthday (Vol. 15, pp. 221-223).

Rex Salisbury Woods qualified in 1916 at St. George's Hospital, and served in the RAMC in Flanders, including the 2nd Battle of the Somme, for which he was mentioned in despatches. After the War he returned to Cambridge, where he had done his pre-clinical studies at Downing College, and gained the MA in 1918, the MD the next year and FRCS in 1922. Between his academic studies, he represented Britain in the shot putt at both the 1924 (Paris) Olympic Games and the 1928 (Amsterdam) Games, and was also a very successful rugby player. During the Second World War he again served with the RAMC in East Africa, Mauritius and Madagascar as a surgical specialist. After the War he continued his interest in physical activity, and was awarded the Medal of Honour of the Republic of France for Physical Education. He combined general practice with surgery, especially the surgery of the injured sportsman until the advent of the National Health Service discouraged these joint appointments, so he stayed in general practice, retiring when he was 91. In 1962 his reminiscences were published, mainly on his sports medicine experience, under the title of "Cambridge Doctor". He was a firm believer in active rehabilitation, condemning Hilton's "Essays on Rest and Pain" — 1896, which interfered so much with return to full function. His physical activities continued until late in his ninth decade, mainly as a golfer, and he held out in one for the third time at the age of 88. We had hoped that BASM would be able to number a centenarian among its members, but this was not to be. We extend our sympathy to his son and daughters, and will mourn the end of an era.

H. E. Robson