EDITORIAL

It is with a mixture of sadness and excitement at the future prospects for the Journal under the able guidance of Dr. Peter Sperryn the new Editor that I put pen to paper for the last Editorial which I shall write. It is appropriate that this edition contains a historical review of the Journal by the longest standing Editor Dr. Henry Robson, whose record in this post will, I am sure, never be beaten.

Of great interest to the elite sports person is loss of form and indeed a session was devoted to this subject at the recent, very successful BASM Congress at Gleneagles. It is, therefore, of interest to publish the article by Dr. Roberts and colleagues looking prospectively at a group of track and field athletes. Although a relatively small group there was no relationship between serological evidence of recent virus infection and reduced performances, for those viruses studied. However, one must remember that there are an infinite number of viruses the majority of which cannot yet be looked for serologically so comments can only apply to those viruses studied.

There is an interesting article on soft tissue injuries in extreme rock climbers which complements the report by Bannister and Foster which was published in this Journal in 1986. No longer is rock climbing a weekend pastime, for some individuals may now participate for many hours per week with the result that over-use injuries are appearing.

The article by Williams and Colleagues provides useful information in failing to show benefit from caffeine ingestion under the conditions studied. This may discourage elite competitors from over-indulgence and running into problems with doping regulations.

Adrianne and I thank readers for their support in recent years and would like to express our good wishes to Peter Sperryn in his new undertaking and are confident that both the Journal and the Association will benefit from his experience and enthusiasm.

Wendy Dodds

Applications are invited from any Medical Practitioner with practical experience of team-care and who has been qualified for a minimum of five years for the post of Medical Officer to the British Team for the World Student Games in Sao Paulo in August 1989. The Chief Medical Officer has already been appointed. Applications, including three copies of a CV stating relevant experience, should be sent to, The British Students Sports Federation, 28 Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AD.

Applicants should include the names and addresses of two referees with their applications.

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BRITISH JOURNAL OF SPORTS MEDICINE — HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

I am beginning to realise in a small way what a mother must feel when she lets her child be adopted. A feeling of emptiness should be offset by the hope that this course should be the best thing for the offspring. After over a quarter of a century the British Association of Sport and Medicine have agreed to relinquish publication of their own journal and to let it be “adopted” by a commercial publisher, and one of high repute amongst medical journals.

During the early 1960s it was felt that there should be a publication outlet for the reporting of proceedings of meetings. At first proceedings of meetings held at Loughborough College of Education were printed in the College’s own journal. Subsequently the Physical Education Association brought out a Sports Medicine Issue once a year, including our proceedings as well as some original articles, and generously provided each member of BASM with a copy. By 1964 we decided to produce our own membership Bulletin, three or four issues a year, which was sent to all members of the Association. Apart from conference proceedings, there were a few original articles and some reprinted with permission from other journals, but written mostly by our own members. Within two years however we received enough original material for our needs. The original editor was Roy James, a lecturer in Physical Education at the Goldsmiths’ College, London. During this time he, together with Lew Blonstein, Alan Bass and John G. P. Williams, edited the proceedings of BASM’s two-day conference on Medical Aspects of Boxing (published by Pergamon Press). It should have been a wonderful public relations exercise for BASM, with extensive newspaper and television coverage, but President Kennedy’s assassination took place during the first day of the conference and the most easily accessible TV teams were the sports units covering the conference. On the second day when the real fight, Summerskill vs. the ABA, took place the press gallery was empty!

Early in 1967 pressures of work and other factors forced Roy to resign as editor and John Williams, then Assistant Secretary of BASM asked me to help him to publish the next issue of the Bulletin for which copy was collected but not edited. A new printer had to be found and Wells and Blackwell Ltd. of Loughborough agreed to act in this capacity and quoted a reasonable price. The Managing Director and his staff guided us in methods of journal production and circulation, and taught me a great deal about the techniques of printing and the reproduction of illustrations. After one issue under the combined editorship John Williams went to the USA for a year on a Churchill Fellowship, so I assumed the post of sole editor for the next twenty years. In 1968 the title was changed to the British Journal of Sports Medicine, incorporating the Bulletin of the British Association of Sport and Medicine, and the journal was registered at Stationers Hall. It was also awarded its ISSN, the international code for all journals registered worldwide.

In 1970 BASM organised the 18th World Congress of Sports Medicine at Oxford and the Proceedings were published as a special number of the Journal. Each Congress delegate was sent a copy, and many more were sold in the UK and abroad. During the 1970s and 80s the revenue from external sales increased significantly and, together with advertising, back issues and reprints, equalled the subscription income from members.

As well as the World Congress, proceedings of other symposia of interest were published as special numbers. In 1969, “The Athlete’s Knee”; “Doping in Sport” in 1970 “Risks of Weight Lifting and Training in Young People”;

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