EDITORIAL

This should be quite an eventful year for sports medicine in Britain. First there is the medical side of the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in July, with far fewer problems of acclimatisation to high temperature or altitude than there were for Jamaica or Australia, but still plenty to interest the sports physician and the exercise physiologist. Many of the Commonwealth teams will be bringing over their own doctors, and we hope to meet most of them when the B.A.S.M. assembles in Edinburgh for the Annual General Meeting on July 17th. Although Edinburgh seems a long way from the South of England, where the North is thought to start at Hatfield, we can assure our readers that civilisation does stretch as far North as Edinburgh, that Hadrian's Wall is no longer a barrier to be negotiated (it never was meant to keep the Scots out of England: just the Northumbrians out of Durham!), and Customs formalities at the border were abolished in about A.D. 300. We therefore hope that members South of the Wall give their full support to their meeting arranged by the Scottish Area, with an interesting programme and as the main attraction the second Adolphe Abrahams Memorial Lecture, which we hope shall soon become an annual event of importance in the calendar of medical societies. The Lecturer is Prof. G.M. Carstairs, and the subject "Psychological factors in competitive athletics", a topic which is of profound interest to all who have to deal with athletes as officials, as team-mates, as coaches, as well as doctors or therapists. The Association's Annual Dinner, which alas has not been held annually in the past few years.

Our other commitment is to act as host for the World Congress in Sports Medicine, and elsewhere are included fuller details of this undertaking. Again we hope for the very fullest support from our own members and their friends. The cost of the Congress is 100 U.S. Dollars, £41.12.0. at today's rate of exchange (June 20th), but liable to vary a bit from week to week. The rate for wife or member of family accompanying a delegate, and participating in the social programme except for certain specified items such as the Banquet, is 60 dollars, calculated at £24.14.0. Students attending the congress are also being charged 60 dollars, of which about 50 dollars are absorbed in board and lodging charges. Those on reduced charges are not entitled to the rather costly Proceedings and other publications, but are able to attend the sessions and of course take advantage of the translation facilities, our heaviest item as regards the overheads of the meeting. For those U.K. members
and their friends who can only attend an odd session, special prices are being arranged, but no meals can be promised for casual or last-minute delegates. We still hope they shall turn up in large numbers for what should prove a most interesting congress. Much hard work is going into the organisation of this event, and we can well express our deep appreciation to our Hon. Secretary, Dr. J.G.P. Williams, who has set up an efficient Secretariat to handle all the vast administration such a congress requires, and with the minimum allowance of money from what the Congress should bring in. Do please give this venture the widest possible publicity, and as much support as you can by personal attendance. Although a little official help has been promised, we must be as near self-supporting financially as we can.

As this Editorial is being written, the results of the General Election are coming in fast and with mounting excitement amongst the household. It is difficult under these circumstances not to make the literary style rather more disjointed than usual. Whatever ones political beliefs, there were several important pieces of legislation under the Labour Government that were beneficial to sports medicine. One of the most important was the setting up of the Sports Council, to whom this Association owes quite a debt of gratitude. Amongst the many bodies putting forward valid claims for financial support for special projects B.A.S.M. were not forgotten, and the Council have already been a great help in setting up the World Congress. We hope sincerely that the new Government will be as ready to help as the last. (Of course, what we really hope is that they shall be of much more help). Too often there is a tendency for a new administration to make a clean sweep of everything its predecessor did, and lose some good reforms as well as those which please us less. Enough hospital equipment in first class condition was dumped into the sea after the re-occupation of the Channel Isles to equip every Sports Medicine centre we could visualise, and such waste is criminal, whatsoever the ideologies of its original owners.

In celebration of the World Congress, we are publishing a special World Congress number of this Journal, and are now ready to receive manuscripts of original work, new clinical techniques, descriptions of facilities, accounts of interesting clinical cases, or anything else that might be of interest to our members and also to new readers outside the membership of B.A.S.M. for editorial consideration. Items concerning sports medicine in other countries, or in special organisations such as the armed forces are also of interest.

This present number of the British Journal of Sports Medicine contains the Proceedings of the meeting held at St. Mary's Hospital School of Medicine on weight training and weight lifting, and their possible effects upon the adolescent. Little work has been done directly upon the adolescent under
these conditions, and the papers given were concerned with the functional anatomy and biomechanics of the spine, and collected together information that is of much more importance than the title of the symposium suggests. Actual statistics or case histories of spinal injuries due to weight training are hard to find, and shall be until a proper register of sports injuries can be compiled. The Editor has therefore contributed a limited study of weight training injuries analysed after the 1958 Commonwealth Games at Cardiff. The papers have been edited by Mr. A.E. Chapman, who is unfortunately leaving this country to take up a new appointment at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia; much as we have appreciated all his work in the editing of the Proceedings, we must wish him all success in his new job (and hope for some editorial assistance from someone else before compiling the next number). A Working Group was formed to assist with the running of the Journal, but we learn that two more of its members Messrs. Paul Robinson, PhD, and John Dickinson, PhD, both of Loughborough College of Education, are also emigrating to new jobs across the Atlantic, and carry with them our best wishes and congratulations.

The final major sports medicine event in this twelve month period coming to these islands (geographically, if not politically) is the International Conference on science and medicine applied to swimming, run by the International Amateur Swimming Federation ("F.I.N.A.") and due to be held in Dublin next April. The organising secretary is a BASM member, Dr. D. Carney, 131 North Circular Road, DUBLIN 7, to whom enquiries should be addressed. In a notice later in this Journal is an invitation for the submission of papers.

The World Congress shall be on top of us soon after this number of the Journal comes out, so we appeal to our members to submit MSS for the World Congress Number, Vol. V. No.2, as soon as possible, and try to help the Organising Committee to make this large international event an outstanding success.