EDITORIAL.

This is the second issue of the Journal in its new type format, and we hope meets with as much approval from readers as the first issue at the end of 1971. We are again delighted to be able to include articles submitted to us from the U.S.A., as well as several original communications from this country. An interesting report from Mr. Ray Watson is published on some of his work on oxygen uptake, and includes a very full discussion of previously published work in this field, and should prove a useful starting point in the search of the literature to anyone commencing studies in the subject of respiratory exchange during very hard work. We hope to hear more from Mr. Watson and his team at Chelsea College of Physical Education, Eastbourne. Other new contributors to the Journal are Dr. Kidd from Liverpool University and Mr. Charlesworth from Chester College of Education, a combined team we also hope to hear from again, especially regarding a joint venture by these workers and some others into fitness testing of athletes. Another interesting report is from Dr. Barranes, a remedial gymnast, who stresses the need to treat the whole patient and not just his injured joint. The members of our Association must possess an enormous amount of clinical experience amongst them, and must be encouraged to publish and enable this reserve of knowledge to be collected and correlated to lead to advances in diagnosis and treatment, not only of sports injuries but of illness and injury in the community as a whole.

A meeting was held at St. Mary’s Hospital on February 20th, the theme being “The Athlete’s Arm”. Most of the papers given at this meeting are published, but it was regrettable how few members attended this meeting, and most discouraging to those trying to arrange sites and times for meetings, which inevitably lead to much trouble in the organisation and unnecessary expenditure on overheads.

From the accounts of injuries given by the speakers at this symposium, and as forcefully from comments during the discussion of the papers, it is obvious that there is much unnecessary injury, acute and due to overuse, amongst young athletes and school children. Dr. Signy, Mr. Bertfield, Mr. Tucker and Dr. Elliott all recounted cases of injury, sometimes severe, a few fatal, that could only be attributed to gross carelessness in the maintenance of equipment, and to lack of proper instruction and supervision of training. These clinical cases were backed up by the experience of several coaches present; Mr. T. Mason from weight-lifting, and Mr. Colin Smith (whose film on javelin throwing provided great interest at the meeting, but could not be reproduced as an article for this journal), Miss Livingston, and by lecturers in physical education who were doing their best to correct these faults with their own students, but not reaching a wide enough population to make a significant contribution.

It was resolved, and later supported by the Executive Committee, that there should be a meeting held later this year or in early 1973, devoted to the hazards of incorrect training in sport for the young.

Another topic of current interest is the assessment of fitness for sport, and in the past two or three years a good deal of collective knowledge has been accumulated in this country on this topic. A residential meeting on Fitness Testing for Sport is to be arranged for the future, and offers of papers on these two themes, together with practical suggestions as to possible location and dates, should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Dr. Sperryn, at the address given below. He would also welcome suggestions for other meetings.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. At the meeting held on February 28th, 1972, Dr. A. Gordon Signy, F.R.C.Path. of the Royal Postgraduate Federation, was co-opted on to the Executive Committee. Apart from contributions to the pathology of injuries and his laboratory experience, Dr. Signy has been Team Manager for the British Fencing Team on several occasions, and brings to the Committee his wide experience of sports administration as well as his medical knowledge. Dr. Basil Kiernander, recently elected as Vice Chairman of B.A.S.M., has accepted nomination as our representative to the British Sports Association for the Disabled.


At long last, the enormous job of editing the Proceedings of the 1970 World Congress of Sports Medicine, held at Oxford, draws towards a close. It is difficult enough to obtain a reproducible manuscript from our own members after a meeting, and the task of getting an article, in readable English, with reproducible illustrations from a remote non-English-speaking country is fraught with the greatest difficulty. Unlike the Abstracts, printed in advance, the Proceedings will contain only the papers actually presented at the Congress. The British Association of Sport and Medicine will be the Publishers, and the British Journal of Sports Medicine the vehicle of publication. All subscribers to the B.J.S.M. and of course all our members shall receive