two hundred. Although this was not a B.A.S.M. meeting, our Chairman was asked to speak about the Association, and B.A.S.M. provided many of the speakers. The meeting was sponsored by Geigy Pharmaceuticals, who have made a significant contribution to sports medicine by this action.

This number of the Journal, containing more than twice the usual number of articles, is being published as a combined issue of Volume VI numbers 3 and 4. The delay in production of an Autumn number is regretted, and due to moving the editorial office twice in a short space of time. We shall therefore be starting Volume VII at the beginning of 1973, and shall endeavour to bring out a complete 4 number volume each calender year, but this is largely dependant upon our members and other contributors supplying us with publishable material.

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LEADING ARTICLE

In the weeks leading up to and covering the Olympic Games our readers will have become aware of an increasing tide of comment and criticism in the Press concerning the medical care of sportsmen in the United Kingdom generally and the medical arrangements for the British Olympic team in particular. In many ways these criticisms were crystallised by the Sports Editor of the Observer (Christopher Brasher, Sunday 20th August) in a detailed attack on the structure and function of the medical services of the British Olympic Association.

At a time when the leading sports nations, at least in Europe, have long since established highly effective sports sciences infra-structures it becomes increasingly apparent that our athletes and sportsmen are being unreasonably handicapped by our continuing failure to accept the implications of long term medical and team management. That this situation has arisen neither of chance nor of ignorance seems apparent from an interview with the Chief Medical Officer of the British Olympic Association published in "Medical News Tribune", (August 21st 1972) in which an attitude is demonstrated which appears in sharp contrast to that exhibited by the Olympic Medical Services of those countries in which Sports Medicine is recognised.

We feel that the sportsmen and women of this country have the right to expect the best possible medical services to be available at Olympic level.

We would propose two simple steps which would not only translate this ideal into a reality, but do so demonstrably. Firstly, we would invite the British Olympic Association to publish a clearly defined job description in respect of the Honorary Medical Officers and the services which they are required to provide, and secondly we would further invite the British Olympic Association to fill all its offices by open public competition.