EDITORIAL

At long last sports medicine in Britain has achieved some degree of recognition, in that the Conjoint Board, in drafting regulations for the new Diploma of Medical Rehabilitation, starting in 1976, have included sports medicine as one of the special subjects that can be offered in Part II of this new examination. The British Association of Sport and Medicine has been approached for advice upon the syllabus and training for this option.

With a subject such as sports medicine, which covers such a wide field of clinical and biological applied sciences, it could be argued that other specialties than physical medicine might be responsible for its inclusion, but it is in the realm of the recovery from soft-tissue trauma, especially that resulting from overuse injury, that presents problems and techniques quite different from those met with in industrial and domestic situations. It is hoped that great care will be taken in the selection of hospital departments in which training for this subject will take place; because a University Teaching Hospital has on its staff a consultant who once played or ran for his College or Country, this will not guarantee automatically that his department can offer the highly specialised training needed. It would be a retrograde step if large numbers of candidates presented themselves for examination without a good theoretical background and practical experience in handling injured athletes.

The B.A.S.M. are to hold a residential course next year on the medical aspects of sport, and further details are given elsewhere in this Journal. It will last a week, and will be held at the University of Salford/Loughborough College of Education.

Another step forward in the treatment of the injured sportsman is the formation of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Sports Medicine, a group that already has one of its members, Mrs. Margaret John, on our Executive Committee. It held its first meeting at the University of Lancaster on July 6th-7th which appeared to be a great success. B.A.S.M. members were notified, and several attended. Papers were presented by several B.A.S.M. members, Drs. J. Williams, P. Sperryn, H. Robson, M. Lucking and I. Adams. The Chair was taken for the first day by Surgeon Rear Admiral S. Miles, R.N. retired, and by the Chairman of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Sports Medicine, Mr. Chapman, on the second day. The Dinner was a great success, and emphasis was placed upon the need for some physiotherapists to attempt to achieve academic recognition by post-diploma study, to advance all branches of physiotherapy, including Sports Medicine, from within the profession rather than to depend upon doctors and other scientists outside physiotherapy. During the meeting, applications for B.A.S.M. membership were received from many of the delegates, and these will be considered by your executive committee at their next meeting. Closer collaboration between doctors and physiotherapists interested in sports injuries, and sports medicine generally, can only be of benefit to all, and will be welcomed.

Lancashire is active in another way, as can be seen within this issue of the Journal. We have included papers on techniques, and reviews in the field of exercise physiology produced by John Brooke and his co-workers in the Human Performance Laboratory at Salford University. Preliminary communications of some of this work were produced for the symposium on Rugby football held at Salford last year. Harry Thomason's review of recent advances in exercise physiology, and its bibliography, gives information in an easily understood form, that is not yet in the textbooks.

Also in this issue, are two papers on the vertebral column, one clinical by Gregg, and one biomechanical by Wood and Hayes. We again welcome papers submitted from overseas, one from Prof. Roy Shephard another from the U.S.A. and one from Australia. As usual, there is a dearth of clinical papers from the United Kingdom; we realise that there are many other publishing outlets for clinical work, journals of high repute and established reputation, with which it is difficult to compete, but we can only establish our own reputation if we receive manuscripts for consideration, and can be more selective, whilst at the same time, not discouraging to those less experienced writers who may wish to submit case reports or work based upon small numbers of patients or subjects. The Executive Committee have therefore decided to form an Editorial Board to guide editorial policy, and to help with the refereeing of papers. Several experienced clinicians, physiologists and others have been approached to serve on this Board, and their names shall be announced as soon as we have had their acceptances.

Professorial Chair in Human Movement

We congratulate a former member of our Executive Committee, John Kane, on his dual appointment as Principal of Loughborough College of Education, and Professor of Human Movement in Loughborough University of Technology. He obtained his physical education diploma at Loughborough, was head of the Physical Education Dept., at St. Mary's College, Twickenham, and recently at Leeds University (where he has now been succeeded by Graham Adamson). He obtained his PhD at the University of London, and has made many contributions to physical education, including its scientific aspect. He joined B.A.S.M. in 1961, and served on the Executive Committee in the late 1960's and early 70's. This appointment is the first of professorial status in the United Kingdom, and we believe it to be well filled.

F.I.M.S. The appointment of John Williams as Secretary General of the International Federation of Sports Medicine has led to a closer link with the international body, and we believe has been to mutual
advantage. His contribution to sports medicine and science has been recognised also by International Council of Sport and Physical Education, a branch of U.N.E.S.C.O., who have awarded him a research prize, as announced on page 95.

A joint symposium with F.I.M.S. and B.A.S.M. on the subject of anabolic steroids is being planned for next winter; the date and location to be announced later, but it will most likely be held in London, on the general lines of the recent Altitude Training symposium.

As announced previously, the 3rd European Congress of Sports Medicine is to take place in Budapest from September 18th — 20th 1974, and it is hoped that a reasonably strong team be sent from B.A.S.M. This congress is sponsored by F.I.M.S. It would be appreciated if any member intending to come to this meeting would notify Dr. Sperryn as soon as possible. We have so far met with no success in finding an inexpensive package tour to fit in with the congress dates.

Discussions are also taking place for the possibility of an Anglo-Benelux meeting next Spring, and it is more likely that favourable travel and accommodation arrangements can be made for this project. Again, we would like members who might attend a meeting in this corner of Europe to express their interest to our Secretary, so that we can try to arrange dates and location.

Annual General Meeting

This will be arranged in the Autumn, and will as usual be combined with a scientific meeting. This time the entire executive committee will resign, some of the officers will be standing for re-election, but there will be many committee vacancies and thought must now be given to nominations for officers and members of the new committee. Recent developments in sports medicine, nationally and internationally, will put heavy responsibility upon the new committee. The evolution of the role played by B.A.S.M. might need changes in the Constitution, and amendments or suggestions should be put forward to the Secretary well in advance, so that they can be considered carefully.

Finance

The high cost of the Proceedings of the World Congress of Sports Medicine that we ran at Oxford, together with Vol. 7 Nos. 3/4 of our journal, accounted for £2,800 and £650 respectively, that is, two years actual income from subscriptions. The cost of printing, and of postage, is still rising, so we must appeal, most strongly, to all members to PAY THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS ON TIME. We have recently had to send out some 200 requests for payment, some for the current year, but a lamentably large number for considerable arrears. Many members have failed to notify changes of address, and it is laborious to try to trace them through their banks. It is also costly to redirect journals; the Proc. World Congress number costing 25 pence in the U.K., and about 50 pence overseas.

Area Branches of B.A.S.M.

As usual, the Scottish Area has been extremely active in its day and residential meetings, and the report of last year’s events is included in this journal. Their finances are sound, there is good cooperation with the Executive Committee, and the regional organisation is efficient.

In the North West, Salford University has been the main focus of activity, and again liaison is good with the Executive Committee. Elsewhere, no local initiative has been displayed. Every encouragement will be given to support area meetings; all that is needed is a group to initiate and organise such meetings, and the Executive Committee can usually provide some speakers if required.

Sale of Back-Numbers of British Journal of Sports Medicine

We have printed extra copies of several recent journals, which we offer for sale. Orders should be sent to the Editor.

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B.A.S.M. Ties

Some of the Association’s ties are available from the Hon. Secretary at a cost of £2.00. All prices quoted are inclusive of postage and packing. Cheques should be made out to the B.A.S.M.