

# Proceedings: Symposium on the Future of Sports Medicine in Britain

Tuesday, November 26, 1974, at 10.15 a.m.

at

The Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1.

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In the Chair RT. HON. LORD PORRITT, K.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., C.B.E., A.R.C.S.

## CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

May I take the opportunity first to welcome you all. We are very grateful to you for coming to this Meeting. I know you are all sufficiently interested in Sports Medicine to realise this is by way of being quite an important Meeting; important particularly I venture to say because as you will know Sports Medicine as such is well on the way to getting formal medical recognition. The subject of Sports Medicine has shown over the years that we have amongst us a great deal of enthusiasm, and a great deal of ability. It has not really been, I think, co-ordinated sufficiently yet. We have too many bodies at the moment, full of the same ability and enthusiasm, all working in their own particular directions, and it will equally be well known to you – and – I think it is quite fair to say that we do not, in this Country at the moment, stand particularly high in the International League of Sports Medicine. What I am trying to say is that I think there is enough ability here, and enough know-how for us to get together and become a force, not only in this land, but in other lands as well. In other words, I am quite sure what we should be aiming to do is to drive towards some co-ordination and more co-operation, and this I hope the following papers will bring out. In the first Panel, which is discussing in general Sport's Problems, we have Dr. Raymond Owen from the British Olympic Association, one of our original sponsors from which the Association commenced, Mr. Lawson's car has unfortunately broken down and we will put him into the programme if possible later because the C.C.P.R., dressed up in its new clothes is, I hope, rather an important part of the set-up to be.

Also in this section is Mr. Clinton Sayer from the Sports Council, one of the Organisations which is of course, of the greatest importance to the Association of Sport and Medicine.

## SPORTS PROBLEMS

Dr. J. Raymond Owen (British Olympic Association)

Mr. Clinton Sayer (The Sports Council)

## THE FUTURE OF SPORTS MEDICINE

J. R. OWEN, M.R.C.O.G.

*British Olympic Association*

I think the first thing one has to consider is what we mean by Sports Medicine.

Although one may say that it is quite obvious what is meant by it I do think that different people think of Sports Medicine in different ways, according to the context in which it is used, and very much according to the position which each individual plays in sport as a whole.

To some Sports Medicine means the treatment of

athletic injuries almost exclusively, to others the treatment and care of competitors at major international meetings only, to others the treatment of competitors apart from actual competition, to others again the medical care of anyone taking part in sport generally, and finally research into the scientific aspects of sport, in some cases aimed at the health of those taking part, and in others with improvement in performance as its primary objective.

It therefore appears that sports medicine covers an