

FOREWORD

EVER since the Stoke Mandeville Games—the annual sports festival of the paralysed—became an international event in 1952, Scientific Meetings have been held each year on that occasion. These gave physicians, surgeons and research workers the opportunity to exchange experiences in the intricate problems concerned with injuries and diseases of the spinal cord. As the years went by, the need to form an International Medical Society of Paraplegia became more and more manifest, and in 1961 the Society was founded.

With the formation of the Society arose a distinct desire for a journal which would serve as a structure for uniting the Society's widely scattered members and above all be designed as a central international source of information for all groups of physicians, surgeons and other scientific workers actively engaged or interested in the manifold aspects of paraplegia and quadriplegia.

Considerable advances have been made since World War II in this hitherto neglected and depressing subject, which involves so many aspects of medicine and surgery. Up till now, the steadily increasing amount of published work in this field has been scattered in many journals, making a heavy claim on the time of the reader wishing to become familiar with current literature and new developments.

It is to provide an international forum for an easy interchange of ideas for all those responsible for the welfare of our paralysed fellow-men, as well as to promote further elucidation of the many and varied aspects of this problem, that this new journal *Paraplegia* is dedicated. Long may it flourish!

LUDWIG GUTTMANN

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