

EDITORIAL

AMONGST the important problems in the rehabilitation of paraplegics and tetraplegics from any cause, the design, selection and use of wheelchairs has for many years been the subject of controversy in various countries. This applies to both the self-propelled and the attendant-propelled wheelchair, and views amongst members of the medical profession, Government Departments, engineers, manufacturers, and last but by no means least wheelchair users themselves, still differ considerably.

In 1962, the Committee for Research into Apparatus for the Disabled (CRAD) of the British Polio Research Fund decided that a full-day conference on this problem should be convened by the Fund. A Symposium on the Wheelchair was held on the 7 November 1962 in London, in which representatives of the Ministry of Health, both medical and technical, physicians, surgeons, research workers, engineers, industrialists, as well as representatives of the British Limbless Ex-servicemen's Association and the Disabled Drivers' Association took part.

In view of the growing importance of this problem, this edition of *Paraplegia* presents a full account of the papers, as well as of the ensuing discussions, in the hope that this will stimulate a wider interest in the development of the best type of wheelchair for varying circumstances and disabilities.