

EDITORIAL

IN other pages throughout this volume will be found tributes to Sir Ludwig Guttmann on the different facets of his character and of his work. They demonstrate the love and respect shown to this world leader in the field of paraplegia, a man with a missionary zeal and single-minded determination. To quote Mirabeau: 'Nothing is impossible to the man that can will. Is that necessary? That shall be. This is the only law of success.' He has unlocked many doors that have led to a greater understanding of the basic features and practical problems concerning paraplegia, and has inspired doctors in many parts of the world to devote their main activities to overcoming the great challenges presented by paraplegia. As Dr. Johnson said of Oliver Goldsmith, 'He adorned everything he touched'.

While associating ourselves whole-heartedly with these many expressions of appreciation and affection, we would wish to speak especially of Sir Ludwig's connection with the journal *Paraplegia*. It takes great courage in this day and age to launch a journal devoted to a special subject, entirely dependent for its success and paying its own way by sheer merit. It is a measure of his greatness that Sir Ludwig has done precisely this.

As we all know, *Paraplegia* has gone on from strength to strength—a happy outcome due to his personal devotion and care. Articles are now submitted from all over the world, drawn not only by the universal desire to gain and spread knowledge about the problems surrounding this difficult subject but also activated by the wish to benefit by Sir Ludwig's mature council and advice.

It has been said that 'Where there is no vision, people perish'. Indeed it was his vision that this *Journal*, the official organ of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia, should transcend nations, races and continents. The International Society now has more than 450 members in 48 countries, and knowledge of its activities and of new thoughts and advances in the field of paraplegia are published in its pages. This special issue of the *Journal* is dedicated to our distinguished Editor, acknowledging his genius in initiating, developing and sustaining new ventures. From its inception some six years ago, the *Journal* has carried out its object, which is to publish original papers, reviews and abstracts concerning all clinical, research and social aspects in the field of injury or disease of the spinal cord.

On behalf of the Editorial Staff of the *Journal* we wish to extend to Sir Ludwig Guttmann, its founder and present Editor, our best wishes and congratulations on the occasion of his seventieth birthday.

PHILLIP HARRIS

J. COSBIE ROSS

Assistant Editors