

EDITORIAL

THOSE who have started working in paraplegia during the last 15 or 20 years have entered a field full of promise. But it is important for them to remember that all this has been achieved since the Second World War, previous to which an injury to the spinal cord was a virtual death sentence.

Ludwig Guttman entered this unpromising field and, at first by himself, and later with small but increasing groups of colleagues, effected a complete transformation of the dismal scene. Among the sagas of the sulphonamides, the antibiotics, the great advances in genetics, immunology and surgery, Ludwig's tremendous work in paraplegia takes its rightful place.

'Strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield'

and all these qualities were sorely needed when he tackled the condition which had hitherto been avoided by Medicine and regarded as hopeless, unrewarding and lethal.

It is quite unnecessary to give an account of all his work. His researches and his tireless activities are well known to all. There is, however, one feature which should be emphasised—the inspiration and advice he has given to paraplegic centres throughout the world—centres which would not be in existence had he not stimulated the powers-that-be to found and develop them. Since Ludwig has retired from the directorship of the National Spinal Centre there has been no letting-up for him—he has continued his research work, the editorship of the *Journal*, the organisation of the 'Olympics for the Paralysed' and the pastoral visits abroad.

When Sir William Osler was leaving the U.S.A. to take up the Chair at Oxford he said:

'I have loved no darkness
Sophisticated no truth
Nursed no delusion
Allowed no fear'

and Ludwig could well say these same words. So Ludwig, we all salute you on this happy occasion and, with affection and respect, look forward to you continuing to guide and advise us with your all-embracing enthusiasm.

In this special issue of *Paraplegia* to celebrate the 80th birthday of its founder and editor, we have selected a few of Sir Ludwig's contributions in the vast field of paraplegia. We have also included some appreciations and relevant new publications and have listed the many honours and distinctions given to this great man.

Because of limitation of space it has been impossible to include all the many tributes submitted on this very special occasion.

PHILLIP HARRIS
J. COSBIE ROSS



SIR LUDWIG GUTTMANN, C.B.E., F.R.S.