EDITORIAL

DR JOHN YOUNG should be warmly congratulated for having started his 'Model System's SCI Digest' in Spring 1979, which in due course will give a comprehensive survey of the work of the Regional Spinal Injuries Centres set up in increasing numbers in recent years in the U.S.A. From the 'Models' so far published, it would appear that the 'traditional' fragmentation of the management of traumatic paraplegics and tetraplegics, between the immediate treatment carried out in neuro-surgical and orthopaedic units and only the after-care and long-term management continued in the new spinal units or physical medicine department, is still practised. It remains to be seen whether or not Spinal Injuries Centres in the U.S.A. will develop into an autonomous, multi-disciplinary speciality, offering spinal cord sufferers a comprehensive (holistic) management dealing with all aspects of the immediate, early and long-term treatment, including social rehabilitation and employment.

In Vol. 2 of SCI Digest, Dr Bob Jackson of Arizona has written an excellent and outspoken paper against the current misleading publicity started by a tetraplegic who, following his return from Russia, gave an account of great improvement as a result of a 'new' treatment he had received there which, however, turned out to be unproven, yet raising false hopes amongst other paralysed patients. Dr Jackson's paper should be widely read by medical, paramedical as well as lay people to become acquainted with the true facts

In this connection reference is made to a recent editorial on the same subject in *Paraplegia*.

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

WITH the beginning of Volume 18 there will be a new development in the publication of *Paraplegia*. Instead of being published quarterly (4 issues a year) it will now be published bi-monthly (6 issues a year). This is the result of the increased reputation of our journal as evidenced by the great number of both original papers and papers read at the Annual Scientific Meeting of our Society. I and my colleagues of the Editorial Board are, of course, very happy about this and I hope that in spite of the increased number of issues a year the standard of our journal will remain high.

May I take this opportunity of thanking most warmly all members of the Society who have sent me their good wishes in my recent 'indisposition', which no doubt have contributed to my speedy recovery.

May I wish all members of the Society a very happy and prosperous new year.

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