

EDITORIAL

THE 1984 Annual Scientific Meeting of the I.M.S.P. was held in Denver, Englewood, Colorado, U.S.A., from 20th to 23rd June, 1984, and was a most successful Conference due to the activities of the Organising Committee, and in particular, Dr John Young, Dr Edward Carter, Mr Skete Bowen and Dr Harry Hahn and his team from the Craig Rehabilitation Hospital.

Selected papers from this Meeting will be published shortly in *Paraplegia*, but it has been decided that the Discussions will no longer be published.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society, Professor Alain Rossier became the new President of the Society, taking over from Sir George Bedbrook. Professor Rossier has now returned to Geneva, Switzerland, from Harvard University, Boston, U.S.A. Dr Paul Dollfus from France was re-elected Vice President for a further period of 2 years. Two other Vice Presidents were elected for a period of two years, Dr Alie Key of South Africa and Dr Conal Wilmot of U.S.A. Dr Hans L. Frankel of England was re-elected Hon. Secretary for a further period of about two years. Dr John Young from the U.S.A. retired from being the U.S.A. Corresponding Secretary and Dr Edward Carter of Houston, Texas, was elected in his place. The following were elected to the Council:

W. Donovan, U.S.A.;
Y. S. Kim, South Korea;
Dr P. Murray, Eire;
Dr H. Natvig, Norway;
Dr J. Wyndaele, Belgium.

Special tributes were paid to Sir George Bedbrook, retiring President, for all that he has done for the Society, and to Dr John Young for his dedicated untiring work in his capacity as the U.S.A. Corresponding Secretary. At the Annual Dinner of the Society in Denver, Dr Young was presented with a parting gift from the Society and he himself made a presentation to Mr Skete Bowen, as his very able Assistant.

Another important innovation was the presentation to the Society of a Presidential Jewel and this was worn by Sir George Bedbrook and then handed over to Professor Alain Rossier. This was very kindly donated by Dr K. Krishnan. The Society's Medal for 1984 was awarded to Professor Yutaka Nakamura of Japan, who unfortunately could not be present at the Denver Meeting, and indeed, has since succumbed to his illness.

Members of the Society and all other doctors interested in spinal cord

injuries and disease are reminded that the 1985 Annual Scientific Meeting of the I.M.S.P. will take place in Edinburgh, Scotland, from the 3rd to 5th September, 1985, and that they should communicate with Mr Peter Edmond, C.B.E., T.D., F.R.C.S.E., Royal College of Surgeons, Nicholson Street, Edinburgh, Scotland; the closing date for Abstracts (up to 500 words maximum) is 6th March, 1985, and the main subjects for the Meeting are:

1. The rarer additional risks e.g. the naturally occurring diseases as far as spinal man is concerned.
2. Role of genito-urinary prosthesis and the final issues in bladder training.
3. Immunological problems and the propensity to infection in the spinal injured patient.
4. Functional electrical-stimulation in rehabilitation.

In Addition proffered papers on any other relevant subject pertaining to the spine or spinal cord or nerve roots are invited. It is stressed that early reservations either in the Halls of Residence, University of Edinburgh, or in Edinburgh hotels are necessary, because the Edinburgh Festival of Music and the Arts will be on just prior to this Meeting.

The 1986 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society will be held in Oslo, Norway, in the last week in June, and the subjects will probably be:

- Urological problems.
- Sport and exercise.
- Technical aids and orthoses.
- Economic implications of longevity in spinal cord injured patients.
- Regeneration in the Central Nervous System.

The 1987 Meeting will be held in Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, Bucks, England in September; and there will be a Regional Meeting in South Africa in the Spring of that year.

The 1988 Meeting will be in Australia and there will also be a Regional Meeting in Korea.

As Editor of *Paraplegia*, it gives me great pleasure in congratulating Sir George Bedbrook for all that he has done in so many different spheres for the Society during his four years of his Presidency and for the great interest that he has shown in the Journal. Sir George Bedbrook has introduced many new and important ideas, some of which have borne fruit and others are still evolving. His vitality, enthusiasm and determination were aptly demonstrated by the very early morning Committee Meetings that we had during the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society in Denver, Colorado.

Indeed, Sir George has begun to change the whole organisation of the Society; it is being streamlined and as time goes on will become part of the computer age.

Our new President Professor Alain Rossier has been very closely involved with Sir George's new ideas and will be introducing his personal concepts.

Important changes in the format of the Journals are also evolving.

PHILLIP HARRIS