

Editorial

The year 1992 has been an important one in the evolution of this journal: it is now published monthly (ten years ago it was quarterly), it is double columned, with a new typescript and has extra pages in each issue. The initial effects of these changes has been to permit more papers to be published; indeed by the end of 1992 there will be 50% more printed material in the journal than in previous years. This obviously entails much extra work by all of those who are involved in the editing side and it will take some time to become attuned to the new experience, but I am most grateful to our new publishers, Macmillan Press, for their real, practical interest and cooperation.

This journal, *Paraplegia*, is the official journal of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia (IMSOP) and is the international journal of the spinal cord, receiving contributions from countries throughout the world with an international readership.

The Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia in 1992 was held in Barcelona, Spain, from 8-10 September, and proved to be a most excellent event, being superbly organised by Dr Miguel Sarrias and his Organising Committee. As is the custom, the day preceding the beginning of the scientific sessions is devoted to committee meetings of IMSOP, and concludes with the Council Meeting. Then on 9 September the Annual General Meeting of IMSOP was convened. Dr Paul Dollfus (France) was elected President. A profile on the new President appeared in *Paraplegia* (1991) 29: 217-218. He is a founder member of IMSOP and Medical Director of the SCI Unit and Medical Rehabilitation Department of the Rehabilitation Centre in Mulhouse, France. Dr R Edward Carter was thanked for his enterprising and invaluable work as President for the last four years - for IMSOP, and indeed for the whole field of spinal disorders throughout the world. He gave a report on his work for the Society for 1992. Dr U Botel (Germany) was elected Vice President and the new Council Members were: Dr A C Pinkerton (Canada); Dr F Biering-

Sorensen (Denmark); Dr R Levi (Sweden); and Dr S Bhattacharji (India). Dr R E Carter was re-elected as the USA Corresponding Secretary; and Dr H L Frankel (UK) was elected Chairman of the Scientific Committee. Professor H Madersbacher (Austria) retired as Vice President but continues on the Council for a further two years as an ex-officio member. The retiring members of Council were: Mr P Edmond (UK), Dr L Sullivan (Sweden), Professor C Tator (Canada), and Dr D Amara (Algeria).

The 1992 IMSOP Medal was awarded to the distinguished South African doctor, Dr A G Key. A profile on this celebrated lady will be published shortly in *Paraplegia*.

Venues for forthcoming Annual Scientific Meetings of IMSOP are: -

1992 Gent, Belgium, 25-28 May.

1993 Kobe, Japan, 31 May-2 June.

The subjects for the 1992 meeting will be found in the Meetings and Notices Section of the journal.

Senior Membership of the Society was accorded to Professor G F Murnaghan (Australia) and to Mr P H Smith (UK). Emeritus Membership of the Society was accorded to Dr A Freehafer (USA), Dr R Lindan (USA), and Dr F Meinecke (Germany).

An information profile on IMSOP was available for comment and will soon be made generally available.

Reports on regional meetings of IMSOP in India, Australia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Sweden, Holland and Canada were given.

Prevention of spinal cord injury: a committee is being set up by IMSOP in conjunction with WHO on this very important matter.

Standards for Neurological and Functions Classification of Spinal Cord Injury: Dr J Ditunno presented this important work and he and his colleagues in the American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) welcome any comments.

At the Editorial Board Meeting it was

announced with great regret that Sir George Bedbrook had died; an obituary on this very distinguished doctor has been published in the journal: *Paraplegia* (1992) 30, 145-148.

I welcomed eight new members to the Board: Dr T E P Barros (Brazil), Mr R A Cowie (UK), Professor R A Dickson (UK), Mr D J Grundy (UK), Professor P Hunter Peckham (USA), Dr E B Marsolais (USA), Dr F Montero (Costa Rica) and Professor A M Stewart (UK).

Eleven members had retired: Professor A Adeloye (Nigeria), Dr F M Braga (Brazil), Professor J Claus-Walker (USA), Mr G Creasey (UK), Dr G Dohrmann (USA), Professor R Frowein (Germany), Dr B A Green (USA), Mr T Russell (UK), Chev A Tricot (Belgium), Dr E G Walsh (UK) and Dr J Yeo (Australia). They were warmly thanked for their invaluable work for the journal.

In addition to the annual regional issue of *Paraplegia* from America, for which warm tribute was paid to Dr David Apple, there will be German, French and Japanese regional issues forthcoming.

There will be a Paraplegia Prize to be awarded in 1994 for the best published paper of an author under 35 years of age. Full details will be published in the journal.

Mrs Genevieve Eastwood, Publishing Manager of *Paraplegia* for Macmillan Press, presented her firm's first report since taking over the journal in January 1992. She and Mr Harry Holt, Publishing Director, and all members of his staff involved with the journal were congratulated on their excellent work. The report was received with acclaim. The new information leaflet on the journal is both attractive and informative, and copies are available from the publishers to all members of IMSOP. The publishers are also distributing these leaflets to appropriate medical and paramedical bodies worldwide and to the organisers of appropriate meetings, conferences, seminars and teach-ins.

The European Association of Science Editors (EASE): this is an association of which the Editor of this journal is a member. EASE holds an annual meeting in the UK and publishes a bulletin—*European*

Science Editing—three times a year. There are also opportunities to participate in meetings and conferences and courses in association with other relevant organisations in Europe but also worldwide, including the International Federation of Science Editors. Topics include the rights of authors, referees, readers, publishers and printers; also the prompt and economic publication of scientific communications, keeping up with modern technology and thus raising the standards of science communication and ensuring that there is the widest possible dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Information coordination for *Paraplegia*: I would refer to the article on this important aspect of our journal, published in *Paraplegia* (1990) 28: 1-4, in which all readers of the journal are invited to submit items to the Information Co-ordinator, Mr Brian Gardner, MA, MRCP (UK), FRCS, Consultant in Spinal Injuries, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 8AL, England (Tel: 0296 315849 Fax: 0296 315268). We seek information concerning meetings, conferences, seminars, courses, new appointments, new spinal units, obituaries, distinctions, honours, authorship of new books, etc, and would stress that such information may initially be sent to Mr Gardner but could be sent directly to the Editorial Secretary of *Paraplegia* in Edinburgh and requires to be received by the Editor at least three months prior to the event of a meeting etc. Appropriate items will be published promptly, free of charge.

In conclusion, I wish to give my thanks to all who so readily and efficiently help me with our journal: to those who submit articles; to our distinguished panel of referees who so carefully peer review manuscripts; to Mrs Ann Scott MA, my hard-working but never complaining Editorial Secretary; to the President and Council of IMSOP for their full support and their suggestions; and to all the members of the Editorial Board—I rely on their unflinching hard work and close cooperation.

Phillip Harris
Editor