

discussed and the subject matter has not received a similar review in recent times.

- 6 All successful thesis material becomes the property of the Society to be published as it deems fit.
- 7 The Board of Censors reserves the right to modify any of these requirements from time to time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

The following motion was passed by the 1993 Annual General Meeting *That the words "30th June" appearing in rule 2 (a) be changed to "31st December"*.

In the last issue (page 148) members who disagreed with the motion were requested to lodge a written objection with the Secretary before November 1st. As no member had lodged an objection by that date the Rules of the Society have now been amended.

Cathy Meehan
Secretary of SPUMS

SPUMS ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING 1994
will be held at
Rabaul, Papua New Guinea
MAY 14th to 22 1994

A brochure was included with the last issue.

The theme of the meeting will be "The causes and management of diving accidents". It will address such issues as diver retrieval from the water, the in-water management of the unconscious diver and whether EAR and CPR should be attempted in the water. There will also be a workshop on dive computers.

If any member or associate wishes to present papers on these topics please contact the Convener, Dr Chris Acott, as soon as possible at
1 Landscape Crescent, Highbury, South Australia 5089.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DIVING SAFETY RESEARCH

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Dear Editor

The massive industry controversy and negative media attention which focused on diving regulations in Queensland during 1991 seems to have faded. Most of the original regulations have been repealed in favour of an industry Code of Practice.¹ However, some of the original issues identified by practising scuba instructors appear to have been largely ignored. For example, instructors expressed concern that there was no research used to guide the decisions of the government committee.² Despite repeated requests by the recreational dive industry to furnish the accident statistics that supposedly showed an alarming increase in scuba injuries leading to the original legislation, none have ever been produced. Indeed, it is possible that they do not exist in documented form.

Independent studies have since indicated that scuba diving in Queensland is a relatively safe activity,^{3,4} especially when compared with recreational sports in the United

States.⁵ While acknowledging that the figures for Queensland are very conservative, and incomplete in their coverage, the safety rate is still excellent.

Even though independent studies are now available, the Queensland government has again been badly advised in the area of dive research. A current government-funded study is not gaining operator support or co-operation. This is an unfortunate waste of \$52,000 over one year for a study of diving accidents.

Many SPUMS members, and selected members of the recreational dive industry, have been invited to participate in a dive research seminar planned for Cairns in October, 1994. This is to be the venue for the release of data from the government-sponsored study. Unfortunately, considering the current lack of industry support in providing accurate figures for the study, the results may be less than complete.

This is not to suggest that this type of data, professionally collected by people who have the confidence of dive industry members, is not a critical component in safety planning and management. Project Stickybeak, and the personal integrity of Dr Douglas Walker, is an example of

what can be achieved. More recently, Dr Chris Acott and his colleagues have made some very positive proposals in their Diver Incident Monitoring Study (DIMS).^{6,7}

Diving appears to be a safe sport in Queensland, but systematic research by industry-supported groups needs to continue. Too often money, time, and valuable resources have been wasted by commissioning outsiders to obtain a picture of diving.⁸ These consultants may be well-meaning, but as Williamson recently observed, research funds are scarce so they must be used effectively.⁹ Inaccurate data leaves everyone disappointed, and may lead to many misunderstandings, such as those which have thankfully passed with the original Queensland diving regulations.

Dr Jeff Wilks

References

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BOOK REVIEW

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 10th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON HYPERBARIC MEDICINE

Editor D J Bakker

Best Publishing Company, PO Box 30100. Flagstaff, Arizona 86003-010100, U.S.A.

Price from the publishers \$US 35.00. Surface mail to Australia \$US 6.50

The Tenth International Congress on Hyperbaric Medicine was held from August 11th-18th 1990 in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. This was a joint meeting with the European Undersea Medical Society and the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society. The International Congress for Hyperbaric Medicine is a group of hyperbaric physicians with a particular involvement in clinical medicine, and was rounded by Dr Boerema of Amsterdam. It holds a scientific meeting every three years, and the twelfth was recently held in Fuzhou, Republic of China, in September 1993. This makes it probably the oldest hyperbaric medicine society.

The book contains 44 papers presented at that meeting. It starts with the address of the President, D J Bakker, who opened the joint congress. He described how in 1963 Professor Boerema invited 104 people from all over the world to Amsterdam to take part in what he called an international congress on the clinical application of hyperbaric medicine.

The book covers the usual range of papers presented at such meetings. It is well printed and well laid

out, and tables and figures are clearly presented. Bibliographies are clear and pertinent, and the book is of a size suitable for easy carrying.

An index would have been of value, as the only clue to what is in the papers is their titles which are listed in a contents section at the beginning.

Many of the papers reward the seeker after information with excellent state of the art treatises on aspects of hyperbaric medicine.

Less than a dozen of the papers are basic science, most of the rest are reports and investigations into the use of hyperbaric oxygen in clinical medicine. Two papers on the use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy in diabetics, by Oriani et al. and by Mathieu et al. are particularly well presented.

This book should be on the shelves of all hyperbaric medicine units as a reference. It is of value to all who attended the Amsterdam meeting, and to others with an interest in clinical hyperbaric medicine who missed it. The International Congress is to be commended on publishing the proceedings. This involves a considerable amount of effort, as trying to obtain manuscripts from speakers after the event is a fairly hopeless task. The abstracts are never as good as the full published papers

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