

Editorial

The International Standards Booklet for Neurological and Functional Classification of Spinal Cord Injury

In this issue of *Paraplegia* there is an article which is of very great importance to all medical doctors and others who are involved with the investigation and management of spinal cord injury patients whether due to trauma or to disease.

Those involved with the International Standards Booklet for *Paraplegia* have, after much work and great thought, produced an extremely useful and important document which should enable all workers in the field of spinal injury to have the opportunity of using highly-recommended and well-thought-out standards for neurological and functional classification of spinal cord injury. In this way, it will now obviously become possible to compare and contrast the symptoms and the signs of patients, and the relation of these to investigations and to management, and also to the

outcome of treatment, including follow-up studies of such patients.

Many years ago, indeed in 1969, (the late) Dr L S Michaelis gave an important paper on the topic at one of the scientific meetings of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia. This paper was subsequently published in *Paraplegia* (1969) 7: 1-5.

I feel that the authors, co-authors and their associates who have worked so hard to produce this International Standards Booklet for *Paraplegia* should be congratulated for their excellent labours. I know that these standards will be welcomed throughout the world and certainly, as Editor of *Paraplegia*, I look forward to receiving articles for future publications in the journal when the authors may well wish to utilise the standards provided in the booklet which is now set out fully as a paper in this issue of *Paraplegia*.

I also have pleasure in saying that translations of this article in French, German, Japanese and Spanish will become available.

Phillip Harris
Editor