

Wray Vamplew, *A Healthy Body: The Australian Sports Medicine Federation 1963-1988* (Canberra: Australian Sports Medicine Federation, 1989). Appendices, illus., pp. vi + 98.

This history provides all the intrigue needed for a Williamson play. It details the machinations and lack of agreement between state organisations in a federal body, highly reminiscent of the same problem at government level.

The book has described as factually as possible after 25 years of activity and intrigue and several deaths and resignations, the progress of a body whose pathway was never really clear to its

members - at least not to the inactive majority. It explains the events leading up to the establishment of the Federation and efficiently and factually describes its development through a quarter of a century. The author has presented an interesting review and has highlighted the various changes in directions of the body in its aims and the personalities involved.

The book makes no real attempt to analyse the indepth reasons for the various decisions but in such a volume this would be very difficult. The style is somewhat didactic but it maintains interest, particularly to a person who has been at the coalface. Interest is maintained throughout and the information contained would markedly improve relationships within the Federation if studied and acted upon by its members.

It was perhaps unfortunate that the development of the Mater Hill Clinic in Brisbane was not described for this unit was established by Dr Hobbs under great opposition. Another problem with the book is the size of the print. In an ageing population more consideration needs to be given to the reader's visual acuity.

The book can be Well recommended to interested parties for its lucidity and for its historical perspective of a disparate organisation which promised much at times but appears to be still seeking a place in history.

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