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The Journal of Laryngology and Otology

(Founded in 1887 by MORELL MACKENZIE and NORRIS WOLFENDEN)

EDITORIAL

WITH the issue of the present number, the *Journal of Laryngology, Rhinology, and Otology* enters upon the thirty-fifth year of its history. Founded in 1887 by Morell Mackenzie and Norris Wolfenden, as the *Journal of Laryngology and Rhinology*, with the object of stimulating and fostering an interest in the specialty and for the purpose of providing an abstract of the most recent literature dealing with diseases of the throat and nose, it fulfilled its function, in this respect, for a number of years. In 1892 "Otology" was added to its title-page, Dr James Dundas Grant assuming responsibility for this section of the work.

During the thirty-four years of its existence, the Journal has had to contend with difficulties both editorial and financial, but, in spite of such, there has been no interruption in the regularity of its appearance, and it has continued to contribute to the current literature of the specialty.

After war broke out, the Journal, like other similar publications, suffered from the stress of the period, but largely through the untiring energy and the efforts of its Editor, assisted by a small but loyal band of co-operators, it weathered the storm. Dr Dan M'Kenzie, after acting for nine years as Editor of the Journal, has asked to be relieved of his responsible duties. In vacating the Editorial Chair, he takes with him the good wishes of all readers of the Journal, along

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with their sincere thanks for the time and thought which he has devoted to its interests and for the work which he has accomplished. The profession owe him a debt of gratitude which they can best repay by giving increased support to the Journal which he has so faithfully served.

In the light of Dr M'Kenzie's retirement, the Editorial Committee, after careful consideration of the whole matter, have come to the conclusion that the occasion is a suitable one for effecting a change in the management of the Journal. Accordingly, they have purchased it from Messrs Adlard & Son, and West Newman, who were not only the publishers but the owners of the Journal. The Journal, which now appears under the title *The Journal of Laryngology and Otology*, has become the property of the profession. Its conduct has been placed in the hands of two Editors, and its publication has been entrusted to the well-known publishing house of Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh. It is hoped that under the new regime it will receive a fresh lease of life, and that an increased effort to further its prestige will be forthcoming on the part of all who are interested in the future progress of Laryngology and Otology.

While no radical changes in the scope and policy of the Journal are contemplated in the meantime, a definite attempt will be made both to enlarge the *terrain* from which contributors to its pages will be drawn, and to add to its sphere of usefulness. The area from which contributions are invited must not be restricted by the waters which girdle our island shores, and an appeal is made to our confrères beyond the Seven Seas for their practical support and assistance. It should not be impossible for Great Britain and the Overseas Dominions to maintain at least one Journal which will be thoroughly representative of the work of one great section of the English-speaking peoples.

The educational advantages which a journal can offer are not inconsiderable. Instructive information may be placed before the reader in a variety of ways. An occasional Editorial dealing with a scientific subject, or with matters which concern

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the education of the specialist, may supply a means of instruction. Abstracts of papers from current literature bearing not only on the specialty but relating to developments in general medicine and surgery which may be indirectly relevant to the throat, nose, and ear, may be made a useful source of information. The clinical histories of the more interesting cases as they occur, month by month, in the various clinics, are worthy of being put on record. Summaries of recent advances in the form of Critical Reviews, provide a more interesting and comprehensive way of studying a question than that obtainable through the perusal of a number of individual abstracts.

Original contributions, however, must continue to form the basis of a successful periodical, and with the increasing number of workers in the specialty, both at home and in the Dominions, we may look confidently for a larger and a more valuable output. The fact should not be lost sight of that every advance in the attainment of scientific knowledge has not been made by laboratory research alone. Some of the great truths, both in medicine and in our own specialty, have not been elucidated by such means, but by careful and patient clinical observation in the out-patient departments and wards of the hospitals. Neither time nor opportunity, nor the special bent of mind which is required for laboratory research, are given to everyone. To such of the younger men who may be thus gifted, every facility should be offered to encourage them along lines of scientific investigation, and the Journal should become the recognised medium for publishing the results of their work. From the riper experience of the older men, with the many clinical opportunities at their disposal, it is reasonable to expect that the Journal should profit. Clinical experience is within the daily reach of the majority of us. The great mass of material with which we deal, week after week, should be utilised to much greater advantage in the future than it has been in the past, and very valuable collective information acquired in this way.

In the special departments of the large General Hospitals, particularly in those connected with the teaching schools,

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facilities for team work should be offered to the staff by the surgeons and physicians in charge. This should be undertaken not only within the special department itself, but in conjunction with the other departments of the hospital, whenever additional assistance is required for the more complete investigation of a subject. A closer alliance between individual workers and groups of workers in different departments would do much to develop further progress, and would result in placing upon a broader basis our conception and knowledge of disease as it affects the special area in which we work. British Laryngology and Otology would be enriched by the acquirement of such knowledge, and the position of the Journal as the vehicle for conveying the information to its readers would be enhanced. It is in the hope of stimulating the workers in the specialty to an increased effort that the first number of the Journal under its new management is presented to the profession.

A. LOGAN TURNER.