

# Editorial Comment

## THE JOURNAL

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Readers will no doubt be surprised to find that the traditional journal cover has changed and as no journal takes such a step without careful consideration a few words of explanation are apposite. The first edition of this journal appeared under the editorship of Tom Wilson in November 1963 and the cover design was then one of quaint simplicity in which the editor's line drawing of the College of Surgeons crest was centred on a plain white background with the journal title standing boldly above it. Then in July 1968 Professor J. D. H. Widdess became editor and a new cover design displayed the rich details of the College of Surgeons crest against a background of red and white --- the College colours taken from the barbers pole. In July 1971 the journal became the Journal of both the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the present volume came into being with a new cover showing both college crests, each of which had been slightly modified to achieve heraldic harmony.

Why then, readers may ask, has the journal once again changed its face. Motivation was functional rather than cosmetic --- a desire to make life easier for the reader be he researching through back numbers or scanning the library display stand, and with so many journals any attempt to facilitate the reader must surely be welcome. The colour contrast has been chosen for clarity and originality.

The Journal, now in its thirteenth year of publication depends more than ever on the support of graduates and friends of the Colleges, who by subscription help to keep the journal viable in an age in which even the most prestigious journals are hard pressed to survive. And yet this journal manages to hold its advertisers, increase its circulation and hopefully it pleases its readers.

The Journal publishes lectures and symposia which take place in the Colleges and the editor welcomes original scientific papers for publication --- this section of the Journal has expanded considerably in recent years. The journal, in addition, serves the Colleges and their allied faculties by reporting policy developments, scientific events and social activities. The success of this section depends greatly on the enthusiasm of the secretaries of the many affiliated bodies. The editor has been dismayed by the lack of student interest in the journal and perhaps the Students Union, the Biological Society and other student bodies would note that representation on the editorial board is never availed of and that despite repeated requests for reports of student events, none are forthcoming. Students are not slow to complain if their views are ignored --- and rightly so --- but this journal has encouraged student participation even to the extent of publishing student papers and the response has been sadly disappointing. News and views from graduates at home and abroad are, of course, as always most welcome.

And so with the birth of the new Medical School and the emergence of new faculties in both Colleges, the journal turns its new face to 1976 with optimism and confidence.