

ARCHIVES OF DISEASE IN CHILDHOOD

INCORPORATING THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF CHILDREN'S DISEASES

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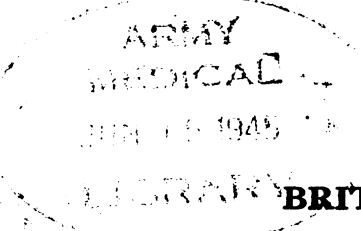
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APPOINTED BY THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE BRITISH PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL STATEMENT

With its 101st number the Archives enters upon a new phase, for it now incorporates THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF CHILDREN'S DISEASES. It is therefore a suitable moment to record the brief history of these two journals and to take a glimpse at the future. The B.J.C.D. made its first appearance in 1904 under the editorship of the late Dr. George Carpenter, who, in an editorial note, observed that in the British Isles there was then no periodical which dealt with disease in childhood, although America, France, Germany and Italy were making headway in this special field of medical literature. In 1900 the Society for the Study of Disease in Children had been founded, and undoubtedly its growing strength hastened the birth of a special journal. Carpenter was much helped in his enterprise by the late Mr. R. E. Adlard, of the printing firm of Adlard and Son, Ltd. Dr. Carpenter had saved the life of one of the children of Mr. Adlard, who showed his thankfulness by launching and financing the BRITISH JOURNAL OF CHILDREN'S DISEASES, now no longer published as a separate journal.

THE ARCHIVES OF DISEASE IN CHILDHOOD first appeared in 1926, largely through the energies of the late Dr. Hugh Thursfield and the late Sir Dawson Williams, then editor of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, who retained a life-long interest in diseases of children. The new journal was welcomed in an article in the B.M.J. in these terms:—

‘ Nearly a year ago some of the medical men whose work lies chiefly among children, and who for a considerable time had felt that English work in this branch of medicine was inadequately presented

by existing publications, met together and, after discussion, determined to sound their colleagues on the advisability of establishing a new journal.’

The Editors of the Archives have striven to maintain a high literary and scientific standard, and the current issue, the first run of the second hundred, sees it strengthened by its absorption of another journal, and the formal recognition of the strong link that has always existed between it and the British Paediatric Association. The appointing of Editors and Editorial Committee and Board is now a joint function of the B.M.A. and the B.P.A. The British Paediatric Association has, in recent times, shown its active concern with the preventive aspects of child health, and, no doubt, this will be reflected in the editorial policy of the Archives, which should therefore have a wider appeal in the future, especially to those practitioners whose work among children is associated with that of local health and education authorities.

Much of the preventive medicine of childhood must rest upon the scientific study of disease. The recognition of the disease rickets, for example, and the discovery of its cause have made it possible to plan preventive measures in a scientific way; and so with scurvy. Protective inoculation against such infections as diphtheria, the diagnosis of foot faults and faults of posture, the study of the abnormal behaviour of the ‘problem child’—all these are witness to the fact that the approach to health has often to be made by a study of abnormal. The standards of the normal, of ‘positive health,’ are but little known, so the title of the ARCHIVES, if it does not reflect the new optimism, at least reflects what is and not what might be.