Editorial note

With this issue the Archives will be published monthly instead of every two months, with 12 instead of 6 issues per volume. From its foundation in 1926, the Archives was published quarterly until 1951 when it appeared every two months. At that time and for the next 15 years, a volume contained about 600 pages, but during the past five years that number has risen steadily so that the 1972 volume contains about 1000 pages.

During this time the average paper has become shorter, partly because authors have been induced to write concisely, and partly because of the introduction of the Short Reports section in 1970. The number of papers published in each issue has increased considerably, leading to a disagreeably cluttered list of contents on the front cover.

We hope that readers will appreciate receiving their reading matter in more physiological amounts than the somewhat infrequent and indigestibly weighty meals that each issue of the Archives had lately tended to provide. There should also be some reduction in the average period elapsing between acceptance of a paper and its publication. It should be easier to publish letters quickly in the Correspondence section when readers wish to comment on published articles, and we take this opportunity of saying that such correspondence is always welcome. Finally, the opportunity has been taken to redesign the front cover to display the list of contents with maximum clarity.

From time to time it has been suggested that the title Archives of Disease in Childhood should be changed to bring it more into line with the kind of paediatrics now practised, and with the editorial intention that the journal should provide a forum for all aspects of child health, not excluding reports of animal experiments which may bear on paediatric problems. Admittedly the present title carries a slightly archaic air about it, but we do not believe that this much influences the kind of material offered to us. However, readers may notice that the subtitle A monthly journal of paediatrics has been added in order to emphasize the point.

Our technical editor, Rita Carne, who is now named for the first time as a member of the editorial staff inside the cover, has been responsible for the day-to-day running of the Archives for many years, and we are happy that her invaluable assistance is now acknowledged.