Archives 1926–86

In the early years of the journal there were long descriptions of disease with extensive details of postmortem examination, including histology. The prevalence of common diseases in specific parts of cities was documented carefully. There was very little about the newborn. Papers were often 20 pages in length and contained tedious detail in small print that few modern readers would tolerate. In recent years we have published an increasing number of papers on the newborn, especially the preterm infant, biochemistry, molecular biology, scanning by ultrasound, computerised axial tomography, and nuclear magnetic resonance. Advertisements are based on the results of clinical trials rather than opinions (Figure).

At first the journal was published quarterly and between 1951 and 1973 it appeared every two months. The short reports section was introduced in 1970, and monthly publication began in 1973. There was a Technical Editor to run the journal on a day to

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"Now . . ."

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day basis, prepare material for printers, and
check proofs before 1952. The names of Tech-
nical Editors did not appear inside the cover
until 1973. There have always been two Editors
of the journal, and apart from the pathologist
Ian Cathie they have been full time paediatricians
who have carried out their editorial work in
their spare time.

The journal was founded and owned initially by
the British Medical Association. Dr Stephen Lock,
Editor of the British Medical Journal, negotiated a
new agreement on behalf of the British Medical
Association in 1977. The British Medical Associa-
tion and the British Paediatric Association became
equal partners sharing the profits or losses of the
journal with up to 800 free copies being supplied to
the British Paediatric Association. The agree-
ment was slightly altered in 1981 as a consequence of
the considerable growth in the membership of
the British Paediatric Association and a new scheme
of sharing costs and profits between the two associa-
tions was introduced, on the basis of other successful
agreements between the British Medical Association
and the societies co-owning journals. A group of
referees who make a particularly large contribution
to the journal form the Editorial Committee, which
meets once a year and helps to determine policy. An
Associate Editor for perinatal medicine was
appointed in 1985. Financial aspects of the journal
are the responsibility of the Management Com-
mittee, which is composed of the two Editors, two
other representatives of the British Paediatric
Association, and four representatives of the British
Medical Association.

Over the past five years the number of pages has
increased from about 1000 to 1250. In 1973 there
were two annotations a year, and in 1985 there were
24 annotations with nine personal practice papers
and 10 current topic articles. We receive over 800
original articles and over 1000 new manuscripts each
year. Original articles are published about five
months and short reports about three months after
the receipt of an acceptable manuscript. The num-
ber of subscribers has remained constant over the
past five years, although most of the specialist
journals are experiencing a loss of 5% of subscribers
each year. About three fifths of our subscribers are
outside the United Kingdom.

The following papers have been selected and summarised from the Archives to show the variety of authors,
changing medical practice, or the first or best description of a new finding.

1928
Anaemia in infancy due to iron deficiency has a high
prevalence.
MacKay H M M.

1933
First description of Kwashiorkor.
Williams C.

1939
Early reports of the effects of sulphonamides.
Gaisford W F, Morris N, Moncrieff A, and
Fleming G B.

The high incidence of spasticity or other cerebral
defects in infants who were born prematurely.
Illingworth R S.

1943
Observations on infant behaviour.
Winnicott D W.

1948
Fibrocystic disease reported in siblings and
appeared to have high familial incidence.
MacGregor A R.

1950
Rubella seems able to attack optic lens and car-
diovascular system during embryogenesis.
St Huggett A.

1952
Retrolental fibroplasia found in 56 babies in a
special care unit during the years 1947–51, suspicion
falling on the adverse effect of sudden fluctuations
of available oxygen.
Jefferson E.

1954
Haemolytic disease of the newborn had occurred in
27 out of 891 children with congenital perceptive
deafness, selective high tone deafness being the
main defect.
Fisch L and Osborne D A.

1955
Galactosaemia is recorded for the first time
mitted as a homozygous recessive gene in the offspring of a consanguineous marriage.  

Holzel A and Komrower G M.

1961  
First five years of life are critical for diagnosis, treatment, and training of children with speech defects.  
Sheridan M D.

1963  
Homocystinuria: a new inborn error of metabolism.  
Carson N A J, Cusworth D C, Dent C E, Field C M B, Neill D W, and Westall R G.

1966  
First comprehensive British growth charts, which were subsequently used throughout the world for growth and development records.  
Tanner J M, Whitehouse R H, and Takaishi M.

1967  
Sugar malabsorption due to deficiencies of disaccharidase activities and of monosaccharide transport.  
Holzel A.

First description of methylmalonic aciduria causing metabolic acidosis.  
Oberholzer V G, Levin B, Burgess E A, and Young W F.

1970  
A thermal neutral environment reduces oxygen consumption and evaporative water loss to a minimum.  
Hey E M and Katz G.

1971  
Effect of human growth hormone treatment for 1–7 years on growth of a hundred children.  
Tanner J M, Whitehouse R H, Hughes P C R, and Vince F P.

1972  
Renal transplantation in 19 children.  

1973  
Criteria for identifying children who may be at increased risk of unexpected death.  
Protestos C D, Carpenter R G, McWeeny P M, and Emery J L.

Changes in ventilator management reduced mortal-

ity from hyaline membrane disease and incidence of bronchopulmonary dysplasia.  
Herman S and Reynolds E O R.

1974  
Good correlation between arterial and transcutaneous oxygen levels in the newborn.  
Huch R, Lubbers D W, and Huch A.

1975  
Urinary tract in schoolgirls with covert bacteriuria.  

1976  
Fifteen year developmental study on the effects of severe undernutrition during infancy on subsequent physical growth and intellectual functioning.  
Stoch M B and Smythe P M.

Diabetic ketosis treated by adding low dose insulin to rehydrating fluid.  
Malleson P N.

1977  
Increasing breast feeding in the community.  
Slorper K S, Elsden E, and Baum J D.

1978  
Computed axial tomography and acute neurological problems of childhood.  
Day R E, Thompson J L G, and Schutt W H.

Viral infection as a precipitant of wheeze in children; combined home and hospital study.  
Mitchell I, Inglish J M, and Simpson H.

1979  
A clinical comparison of beclomethasone dipropionate delivered by pressurised aerosol and as a powder from a rotahaler.  
Edmunds A T, McKenzie S, Tooley M, and Godfrey S.

1980  
Development of gut hormone responses to feeding in neonates.  
Lucas A, Bloom S R, and Aynsley-Green A.

Continuous sodium valproate or phenobarbitone in the prevention of simple febrile convulsions. Comparison by a double blind trial.  
Ngwane E and Bower B.

1981  
Cerebral structure and intraventricular haemor-
rhage in the neonate; a real time ultrasound study. Levene M I, Wigglesworth J S, and Dubowitz V.


1982
Munchausen syndrome by proxy. Meadow S R.

1983
Nuclear magnetic resonance imaging of the brain. Bydder G M and Whitelaw A.

1984

1985
Virulence genes in prevention of Haemophilus influenzae infections. Moxon E R.

Dr Philip Evans, editor 1948–54, writes:

The first article in the Archives was on cirrhosis of the liver in childhood by F J Poynton and W G Wyllie.* In it three cases in one family were described, two sisters and a brother. The same patients appeared in about 1935 in an article in The Quarterly Journal of Medicine, this time on glycogen storage disease (was Von Gierke’s paper 1929?). The worst affected of the sisters turned up at Guy’s Hospital to have her first and probably only baby in about 1950. She was a short stumpy figure with a huge hard liver, cheery and full of energy, which she attributed to physical training at school. The baby boy was unaffected. She was followed up by Edward W Holling who eventually published a paper about her.

*The article is reviewed by A P Mowat on page 941.