

Editorial

Anniversaries offer opportunities for reflection as well as opportunities for reidentification of significant activities at times past. Most commonly, it is only in this perspective that achievements can be assessed objectively. If we can avoid the cloying of nostalgia, this reassessment can sharpen our perspective and put deeds of the past in some hierarchy of significance.

The publication of the first issue of the fifth volume of PEDIATRIC RESEARCH marks a point in time of some significance, for it establishes the Journal on a new footing. The publication moves from a bimonthly to a monthly schedule, and from a European to an American publisher. For the past 100 years, biomedical periodicals—like modern deans of medical schools—have had an average lifespan of 5 years. With the successful completion of its 5th year, the Journal moves onward, beyond this usual period of trial.

The polylingual facility, employed by the Journal during the first 4 years, has proven unnecessary because of the limited number of articles submitted in languages other than English. Notwithstanding, the international flavor of the Journal will survive this change, and the years ahead promise more effective and relevant interaction across the Atlantic. The Journal staff continues to explore novel and improved methods for Journal format. For example, with the change of publishers, the Journal contents are now being placed in retrieval mode in the National Institutes of Health's computer center. Ultimately, a program will be developed to permit key word retrieval in context, and computer search of Journal articles for interest profiles or specific data. The new publisher has indicated a willingness to apply innovative methods of reproduction to the end that the interval between manuscript submission and publication can be truncated.

As we look to change and progress, we must also look to the past, lest we fail to identify those whose actions have made PEDIATRIC RESEARCH an extant periodical. From its inception, the Editorial Board has faced, with realism, the complexity inherent in any international undertaking. As evidence of success, the Journal can point not only to a continuation but even to a strengthening of the association with European colleagues and to the publication of an increasing proportion of articles by European scientists.

The most critical issue facing the Board has been the need for sustained financial support of the editorial office of the Journal. At the onset, it was agreed that guaranteed resources sufficient for 5 years of Journal publication were essential before the first issue could be typeset. Meeting these conditions was not simple, but it was determined that a 5-year subsidy would be assured by the sponsoring society in Europe and by a volunteer committee in America. Within a remarkably short time, Dr. Christopherson, Chairman of the Committee, and at that time the Executive Director of the American Academy of Pediatrics, arranged for the American support which was donated to the Journal through the Academy.

The Academy has recently reidentified those who have given so generously in order that the Journal could be published. This now seems a most opportune time to acknowledge publicly these benefactors, for without their confidence and nameless support the Journal would have perished *in utero*. We thank for their generous support the Borden Company, Carnation Company, Gerber Baby Foods Fund, Johnson & Johnson, Mead Johnson Laboratories, Purdue Frederick Company, Ross Laboratories, and Wyeth Laboratories.

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