THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.
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FOREWORD.

Readers who have not taken part in the founding of this new journal may wonder that such an enterprise should be set on foot at the present time. The reason is easily given. The stress of war has compelled all sorts and conditions of men to ask themselves how they can better utilise their resources and increase the efficiency of their work. In countless ways they are finding that "union is strength."

The British Journal of Ophthalmology comes into existence through the union of three well-known periodicals: The Reports of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, The Ophthalmic Review, and The Ophthalmoscope.

It is now nearly sixty years since the Staff at Moorfields began to issue periodical Reports of their clinical and operative experiences, and of the researches carried out in the museum and laboratories of the Hospital. Established in 1857, these invaluable Reports now fill twenty volumes. The Ophthalmic Review appeared in 1881. Its purpose was to give critical notices and abstracts of current ophthalmic literature, especially, of that published abroad, and to provide a channel for the prompt publication of short original papers. It has carried on this work without a break for thirty-five years. The Ophthalmoscope, the youngest of the three, was established in 1903. It quickly attained a high place in the estimation of ophthalmic surgeons, and a wide circulation.

It would be impertinent to praise the work accomplished by these periodicals. Every student of the subject knows that they have played important parts in the progress of ophthalmology. But they have been carried on independently of each other, and their work has sometimes overlapped; this implies waste of strength.
The time is opportune for their unification, and their promoters are willing, and more than willing, to join forces in a more comprehensive enterprise.

The new Journal is already assured of welcome and support in all parts of the British Empire, and there is reason to believe that the hospitality of its pages will be gladly accepted from time to time by ophthalmic surgeons in Holland, Sweden, and some other countries whose original work has hitherto been published elsewhere.

It is placed on firm foundations. It is the property not of individuals, but of a limited liability Company, the declared object of which is to further the study of ophthalmology rather than to earn large dividends. Every British ophthalmic surgeon has been asked to be a shareholder in the Company, as well as a subscriber to the Journal. There has been an admirable response.

The literary conduct of the Journal is in experienced hands: the Editor is Mr. Sydney Stephenson, the Sub-Editor is Mr. Erskine Henderson, and they act under an Editorial Committee, of which Mr. J. B. Lawford is the Chairman.

The prime mover in this new development deserves the cordial thanks of all whom it concerns. Mr. W. H. H. Jessop saw the opportunity and seized it. By his position as President of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, and not less by his own personality, he was the very man to initiate the scheme, and to carry it with general approval into operation. May his foresight and unselfish zeal find a fitting monument in its success.

But lasting success, be it remembered, is not ensured by an enthusiastic send-off, nor does it depend only on the ability and experience of those who conduct the undertaking; it demands the devotion of many workers. Writing in the first number of the Moorfields Reports, Sir William Bowman referred to those "who would fain leave science more advanced than they found it." Let every reader of The British Journal of Ophthalmology seek earnestly for opportunities of contributing in this spirit to its pages, and it will assuredly be worthy of its name.

P.S.