With this issue of the Journal we are happy to state that it is now possible to use a much better quality paper than war conditions imposed and we hope that this improvement in appearance will be welcomed by our subscribers.

Certain changes in policy have been considered by the Management and some of these are being brought into operation with this number. In the important matter of abstracting ophthalmological literature an agreement has been concluded with the British Medical Association to share in the work they are doing in abstracting world medical literature. All the important ophthalmological publications of the world will be abstracted or noted by the special department of that Association and assisted by our own abstracting service will be made available for us. This service is intended to be fully comprehensive, much more so than was possible for the British Journal of Ophthalmology, and to be up-to-date. As the material available will be greater than can be accommodated in each current number, the British Journal of Ophthalmology will issue, in addition to the normal month's number, a quarterly number of abstracts and it is hoped to include in each of these a summary of new work on some one or other ophthalmological subject. Therefore, henceforth, abstracts will not be published in the regular monthly issues.
FUTURE POLICY

Owing to the disruption of life in Continental Europe and the cessation of many specialist publications, authors have been invited to send their papers to the British Journal of Ophthalmology for publication. Many have accepted these invitations and readers of this Journal will find an increasing number of interesting contributions from various foreign countries.

In the matter of illustrations and more particularly colour blocks, it is hoped that we shall be able to print all that are necessary to show clearly the points the authors wish to make. In order to accommodate these it is anticipated that the Journal will have to be increased in size (have many more pages of text) and although paper is still in short supply and its use strictly controlled, it is hoped that sufficient supplies for this purpose will be permitted.

It is obvious that all this will entail a much greater expenditure in the future than in the past, added to this is the increased cost of paper and printing, but the Management feel that our subscribers will prefer to have the much improved journal which is in contemplation. The exact financial implication of all this has yet to be determined and an announcement on this subject will be made later.

“OPHTHALMIC LITERATURE”

An Abstracting Service

In the previous announcement an indication is given that an abstracting supplement will be published quarterly in association with this Journal. To a large extent it will run in conjunction with the abstracting service of the British Medical Association all of whose abstracts are at our disposal, but there will be a considerable number of papers of ophthalmological interest which will be abstracted in our own Ophthalmic Literature, but are not of sufficient general interest to be included in the medical and surgical volumes of abstracts published monthly by the Association. It is very much hoped that our readers will collaborate in preparing these abstracts both for the British Medical Association and for the British Journal of Ophthalmology. We would be glad if those who are willing to participate in the abstracting of ophthalmological papers for the Association would write to the Editor, the Abstracting Service, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1., and those who are willing to abstract such papers as the British Medical Association do not wish to include in their publications would write to Sir Stewart Duke-Elder (Editor, Ophthalmic Literature), 63, Harley Street, London, W.1., stating in either case in which languages they are ophthalmologically proficient in addition to
AN ITEM OF OPHTHALMOLOGICAL INTEREST

English. In either case the name of the abstractor will be acknowledged in the text and payment will be made at the rate of thirty shillings per thousand words. Since the literature from January 1, 1947, is being dealt with, an early notification by potential abstractors would be much appreciated.

MR. SURPHLETE, AN ITEM OF OPHTHALMOLOGICAL HISTORY

BY

R. R. James

woodbridge

In Sloane MS. 3801 at the British Museum is mentioned the man whose name heads this paper. In my "Studies in Ophthalmological History" I gave a transcript of the manuscript in question, and may here repeat the lines dealing with Mr. Surphlete.

"Then ther was one Mr. Surphlete a man of axeolente Dyet and crusty fasion of bodye. He lived till he was fouere score yeares of age lived moste in Norfolke & dyed at Linn and in good estate. He lay 2 or 3 yeares at a barber's house at Linn to whom he taught som skille, who nowe professethe it with weak Understandinge and gyven to drinke. I cannot com'end this Mr. Surphlete for any extraordinarye skille though of longe experience."

Mr. Arnold Sorsby has called my attention to the fact that Richard Banister refers to the following oculists in the preface to his Breviary: "Henry Blackborne, famous for the forenamed cures; my kinde acquaintance Robert Hall, of Worcester; Master Velder, of Fenning-Stanton; Master Surflet, of Lynne and Master Barnabie, of Peterborough, all excelling in these operations." He goes on to say that "in their case I noticed much practice but little theorie."

The name Surflet is very rare. Research has established the following facts. A small market town named Surflet is near Spalding in Lincolnshire. A Richard Surflytte married at Maplebeck, Notts., Isabel Lynne on 13, October 1563. A man of the same name (but spelt Surflet), matriculated sizar from Trinity College, Cambridge, at Michaelmas, 1576 (Venn). Richard Surflet, Practitioner in Physicke, translated Andreas Laurentius's "A Discourse of the Preservation of the Sight, and a Treatise of Melancholike Diseases, of Rheumes, and of Old Age." This book was printed by Felix Kingston, for Ralph Iacson, dwelling in Paules Churchyard at the Signe of the Swan, 1599. It is dedicated to Lord La Ware and Ladie Anne, his wife.