

Editorial

After guiding this Journal for a quarter of a century Sir Stewart has decided to relinquish his leadership. He has chaired the Editorial Committee since 1948 and recently he established and occupied the position of Editor as a preliminary to change.

In the nature of things there was a lull in ophthalmic research during the war which persisted into the post-war years while the young and inexperienced returned home to an unpainted, untidy, and war-wracked Kingdom, but in this chaos there lay an opportunity for reconstruction and far-sighted planning. This was grasped by Stewart, then at the height of his powers, and an Institute of Ophthalmology was born with "The Duke" himself as accoucheur. It gathered a nucleus of enthusiastic workers and gradually papers began to appear, at first in a trickle, and later in such profusion that they threatened to squeeze out the contributions of the clinically orientated. As time passed, however, new journals relieved the B.J.O. of the basic scientific aspects of our specialty and made room for contributions from our own clinicians at home and abroad and from many developing countries in and outside the Commonwealth.

The B.J.O. has thus reflected world-wide changes and, as the movement towards academic ophthalmology grows and develops in the U.K. (witness the University chairs in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester, Belfast, and London, with rumours of academic departments in Birmingham, Bristol,

and Oxford), it is anticipated that case reports will decline in importance and be compressed within a separate section of the journal, while long-term prospective statistical studies will emanate particularly from those various centres of excellence.

Meantime Sir Stewart takes his leave of a journal which has flourished under his supervision and which he edited while producing the fifteen volumes of his *System of Ophthalmology*, a remarkable and unique achievement which has earned the gratitude of ophthalmologists everywhere. His many friends and readers bid him the happy and peaceful retirement which he richly deserves.