Editorial: In honour of Professor Barrie Jones

In 1951 there arrived in London a young New Zealand ophthalmologist seeking further postgraduate training who was destined to become one of a select band of his countrymen who have made unique contributions to British and world medicine. Subsequently in 1963 Barrie Jones was appointed to head the newly inaugurated Department of Clinical Ophthalmology of the Institute of Ophthalmology and Moorfields Eye Hospital. Incidentally he was the first holder of an established chair in clinical ophthalmology in any English university. Under his leadership the department soon became renowned as a centre for research and teaching and attracted many young academic ophthalmologists and scientists from Britain and overseas.

In 1981 he resigned from the chair of clinical ophthalmology to establish and lead a new Department of Preventive Ophthalmology at the Institute. He was thereby enabled to devote his talents and energy to the problem of world blindness, a matter which had been close to his heart for many years. The time was right for this development and he was uniquely equipped to spearhead the challenge against one of the most pressing human problems of the age.

All too soon Barrie Jones is to retire from the Institute and Moorfields, and it is this event which the BJO is marking by dedicating this number as a Festschrift in his honour. The contributors have been members of his departments or closely associated with his work in other ways; all are colleagues and friends who are proud to have sat at his feet. The BJO salutes an outstanding ophthalmic physician and surgeon, an innovative and visionary scientist, and above all a great doctor. We know that his 'retirement' will be very active and we send him and his devoted wife, Pauline, affectionate good wishes for the future.