Foreword

WITH this issue, BLOOD—The Journal of Hematology goes into its sixth year. Most readers will agree that it has cast aside its swaddling clothes and is now a full-fledged and even vigorous youngster. With the advent of CIRCULATION a year ago, fathered by the same publisher (through the American Heart Association), BLOOD has even assumed the status of a “big brother.” BLOOD and CIRCULATION: what names to conjure with!

At first published bimonthly, the transition to a monthly publication was made by the publication of a large group of papers in honor of our former Consulting Editor, Doctor George Richards Minot, who died on February 25, 1950 at the age of 62. This five year period—1946--1950 inclusive—has been marked by a continued and intensive advance in the ever-broadening field of hematology. Many marks of this advance have been set down in our columns; recent trends in morphologic hematology, including phase microscopy, histochemistry, and electron microscopy; descriptions of “never” types of anemia including newer hereditary hemolytic syndromes; some of the early descriptions of the clinical use of folic acid, and of B12; advances in the pathogenetic mechanisms of the hemolytic anemias, and of the hemolytic crisis; much regarding the Rh factors and immuno-hematology; special types of blood transfusions, and unusual transfusion reactions; abnormalities of the splenic function; chemotherapy of leukemia, and of the leukocytic neoplasms; and of course changes in the rapidly moving field of the coagulation mechanism, to say nothing of the recently introduced “miracle” hormones ACTH and cortisone.

Due in some measure to the rather rigid space limitations set up by ever-increasing printing costs, the Journal has been able to accept less than one-half of the manuscripts submitted. The selection of these manuscripts has been the task of the various members of the Editorial Board aided in special circumstances by a large number of other referees.*

It has been the stated policy of the Editorial Board that the highest possible standards be maintained in the selection of manuscripts for the Journal and in their preparation for ultimate publication. To this end, suggestions for revisions, oftentimes of marked degree, have frequently been made. Almost always, these suggestions have been accepted in good faith, although it must be admitted that...


Thanks also go to Mr. Duncan Mackintosh, our publisher’s Editor; to Miss Phyllis Acebo, our editorial secretary; and of course to our publisher, Mr. Henry M. Stratton.
certain authors, particularly from abroad, have at times objected rather strenuously to our strict American editorial standards. Despite this, a fairly considerable number of papers from non-North American sources has been steadily published, thus giving the Journal a truly international flavor.

The acceptance of articles, whether clinical, clinical investigative, or purely investigative, is predicated upon their being representative of the highest qualities in their respective fields. To achieve a proper balance in the Journal between clinical and investigative articles has often proved difficult. The scientists have said that the Journal was too clinical; whereas the clinicians have cried out that it was getting altogether too scientific for their tastes. In the future, as in the past, continuous efforts will be made to keep the balance true.

There can be no doubt but that well-written and documented clinical articles may have as much importance and value as the terse and often stilted reports of studies in the experimental animal. Unfortunately, comprehensive clinical articles seem to be relatively scarce.

The articles we have published have dealt almost exclusively with the detailed discussion of original investigations. However, many of us have felt that authoritative reviews of certain subjects might also be helpful. It has therefore been decided to publish each month, if possible, an “Analytical Review,” which will present a brief but comprehensive discussion of a single subject. The first of such reviews appears in this issue. From time to time, an “Historical Review” will also be published. It is also planned to obtain “Foreign Letters” from our various corresponding editors.

The reader will note with this issue a change in the type from that previously used. Particularly in the fine print, the former type was rather difficult to read, although its artistic merit was stated to be high. In this instance, we have decided in favor of greater legibility.

In 1949, it was voted by the Editorial Board that a Policy Committee be established to guide in both the management of the Journal and in a reorganization of the Editorial Board. In May 1950 the Journal was put on a “five year plan,” and the Editor-in-chief was elected for another five year term commencing January 1951. Reorganization of the Editorial Board has finally been accomplished. To the outgoing Editors, who have proved a tower of strength in the trying days of the first organization of the Journal, go the thanks of all of us. To the new members of the Editorial Board, we offer a warm welcome and an appreciation in advance of their help.

Blood thus begins its second half decade with some trepidation, but plethoric with good articles, good ideas, good men and international good will. Would that the same could be said for the world in general!

William Dameshek
for the Editors of Blood
Foreword

WILLIAM DAMESHEK