

Editorial

The first 100 years

The journal that is now *Epidemiology & Infection* was founded in 1901 as the *Journal of Hygiene* 'to fulfil a definite purpose by serving as a focus to English-speaking investigators for works in physics, chemistry, physiology, pathology, bacteriology, parasitology and epidemiology in relation to hygiene and preventive medicine'. In 1987 the name of the journal was changed to *Epidemiology & Infection*. The journal was fortunate in its origins as the *Journal of Hygiene*, by the nature of its remit there was no tie to narrow disciplinary considerations, and so there has always been a place in the journal for unusual contributions from investigators working at the tribal boundaries between the major subject areas. This tradition has continued till today and is reflected in the wide range of contributions published.

In keeping with the scope of the journal, there has developed a particular style of editorship. I think of this as the cabinet model. If you look at copies of the journal, you will see that the Editor, or now Senior Editor, has never worked alone and has always relied on the good offices of senior colleagues. To do otherwise and to maintain the scope of the journal would be a foolish enterprise. The journal has always been edited 'in conjunction with colleagues' but more recently (within the last 30 years) the custom has been to appoint more than one Editor. Over the years the numbers of Editors has increased to cope with the extension of knowledge within the very many areas for which the journal caters. The Editors are advised and helped by an internationally disciplinarily diverse Editorial Board.

Each Editor is within the remit of their disciplinary interests, broadly drawn, the arbiter of the journal's content. Each organizes the review of manuscripts and, in the light of this advice, makes decisions as to the fate, rejection, publication or re-write, of the manuscripts. Together, as a group, we formulate journal policy, each bringing to the discussion their particular disciplinary focus, thus ensuring representation of the interests of the various constituencies that the journal serves.

The reach of the journal results from two factors. First, the scope of the disciplines covered. Although not as wide as defined in the first issue, the range of subjects covered by the journal is wider and more diverse than that in any other journal related to infection. Thus, although the focus is on epidemiological aspects of infection, this is taken to include studies on the mechanisms of pathogenicity, mechanisms of spread of infection, descriptions of outbreaks and methodological papers related to all aspects of epidemiology and infection in both human and animal disease. The second factor has been the development of the dominance of English as the language of international scientific publication. This has been reflected by the journal in several ways, most recently by the appointment of Editors in Japan, Australia and the United States. The Editorial Board has also had an international flavour, but appointment as Editor carries a wider range of responsibilities. The international nature of the journal is also evident in the range of its publications. International scope reflects not only in the places in which the studies are performed – in the past many investigators travelled to other countries to undertake particular observations – but also in the wide range and diverse origins of the investigators.

During the past 100 years the journal has served as a major forum for ideas in many aspects of the study of infection in man and other animals. This legacy will, we hope, be demonstrated later in the year with a special issue republishing some of these seminal contributions. During the past 100 years the journal has become established as one of the most important international publications. During the next 100 years it will continue to progress and evolve. An electronic version is available on the Cambridge University Press's website and I am confident that this and other modes of delivery will be the keynote for the next 100 years.

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