

Editorial

With this issue, the *Journal*, which has had a continuous existence of well over a century, acquires a new title and a new look, more appropriate to the times. "Mental Science", once a recognized and honoured branch of philosophical studies, has long been an obsolete term, and the affection which many of our readers have felt for our distinctive and unique title could no longer be allowed to stand in the way of a change.

Our first issues, from 1853 to 1855, appeared under the modest heading of "*The Asylum Journal*", and there is no record of how the title of "*Journal of Mental Science*" came to be adopted; but clearly the change expressed the broad views held by the first Editor, Sir John Bucknill, on what should be the *Journal's* scope and purpose. He planned to deal with "mental science in its practical, that is in its sociological, point of view" and to cover "mental physiology and pathology, with their vast range of inquiry into insanity, education, crime and all things which tend to preserve mental health or to cause mental disease".

Today this vast range of inquiry is pursued by workers belonging to many disciplines, while

Psychiatry has become the recognized term everywhere for the branch of medicine which deals with mental health and with all kinds and degrees of mental disorder.

As the organ of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, the *Journal* will endeavour to include work done in every field of psychiatry and to reflect every school of thought within the specialty. For this purpose it is intended to publish from time to time general reviews or surveys, especially on subjects which may not have been covered by recent original articles. Contributions from the fields of psychology, sociology, anthropology and others will be welcomed in so far as they have relevance to clinical psychiatry.

It is the hope of the Editors that, with the support of the Association's Journal Committee and of the members of the new Board of Assessors, it will be possible to maintain and enhance the reputation and prestige of the *Journal*, so that it may faithfully express and also make its own contribution to the vigorous growth of psychiatry which is taking place in Great Britain and Ireland at the present time.