HEART: 1909 – 1958

Nearly fifty years have passed since *Heart* was started, for the first number was published in July 1909. James Mackenzie and Thomas Lewis played the main part in this, and Lewis has recorded that Mackenzie asked him to accept editorial responsibility. Lewis was then 28. During the next 24 years, sixteen volumes appeared at somewhat irregular intervals, for Lewis was anxious to include only papers that reached his high standard, and as editor he was a beneficent dictator, with the friendly support of the late Mr. Morten Bond, Chairman of Shaw and Sons, the publishers.

It is right that this should be commemorated for, though *Heart* no longer exists as such, it is continued as *Clinical Science*, the title to which Lewis changed it in 1933, and less directly as the *British Heart Journal*, which started six years later. The last number of *Heart* contains papers by five present members of the British Cardiac Society apart from Frank Wilson and Lewis himself—Fraser, Grant, Cookson, Wayne, and Pickering. Some of those responsible for starting the *British Heart Journal* hoped that the title *Heart* might continue and might be used for it. This was discussed with Lewis, who finally agreed that it should be if the publishers were willing, but they thought it inadvisable at that time.

Archives des Maladies du Cœur et des Vaisseaux was started in 1908, the year before *Heart*, by Henri Vaquez: he was interested in diseases of the blood also, and the original title included *et du Sang*, but was shortened to its present form when, after the death of Vaquez in 1937, it was taken over by Laubry. *Zentralblatt für Herzkrankheiten* also was started in 1909 and was edited by M. Herz. The attitude to heart disease was changing and much new work was being done. Though there were many at work and along different lines, it is right to mention Mackenzie's work and his *Study of the Pulse*, published in 1902, as important landmarks.

It was a period of expansion in many directions. The Association of Physicians was founded in 1907; the *Quarterly Journal of Medicine* started that year and the *Archives of Internal Medicine* in 1908. Physicians were feeling two needs—to meet in larger national societies, and at the same time to divide according to their interests in the growing special branches. But beneath the smooth surface of scientific advance and progressive Liberalism that seemed likely to spread over the whole world, there were hidden dangers. Europe was nearing the end of a great era. Fortunately, the cataclysmic social and political changes that resulted from the First World War did not delay for long further scientific advances.

The *British Heart Journal*, as such, was started in 1939 by the British Cardiac Society, which had been in existence since 1922 and had recently changed from a small informal society, the Cardiac Club, to one that tried to embrace all those working in cardiology. In the same way, the *American Heart Journal* was started in 1925 by the American Heart Association which had been formed in 1923 and was a purely medical society until 1946, when it became a voluntary public health agency also. In Germany, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kreislaufforschung*, which has I think more professors of physiology and related sciences than most other cardiac societies, was founded in 1927 by B. Kisch and by A. Weber, who is still working in the Institute at Bad Nauheim, where the Society meets regularly: E. Stadler and B. Kisch were the first editors of *Zeitschrift für Kreislaufforschung* which was started the same year as Volume XIX, replacing the earlier *Zentralblatt für Herzkrankheiten* (1909–26). In France, the journal came first by many years, for the *Société Française de Cardiologie* was founded in 1937, nearly twenty years after the journal and through its editorial committee. In Italy also, *Cuore e Circolazione*, which was started in 1924

with C. Pezzi as editor, came many years before the cardiac society. Since 1916 there had been an earlier journal *Malattie di cuore*. The Gruppo Cardiologico Italiano was founded in 1935 and the Associazione Italiana di Cardiologia in 1947, and it was only in 1956 that the present Società Italiana di Cardiologia was founded.

Cardiologia was published at Basle in 1937 and has been the official journal of the Swiss Society of Cardiology since 1948—the year in which it was founded—and also of the Swedish Society since 1948 and of the Netherlands Society since 1949. *Acta Cardiologica* was started at Brussels in 1946 by La Société Belge de Cardiologie, which had been founded in 1934.

There are now many journals dealing with the heart and circulation but the writer has mentioned only some of those in English, French, or German. Others include *Revista Argentina de Cardiologia* (1934), *Arquivos Brasileiros de Cardiologia* (1948), *Indian Heart Journal* (1949), and recently *Sistole* from Montevideo. *Circulation* (1950), and *Circulation Research* (1953) are recent additions in the U.S.A. and show how rapidly the number and size is increasing. Readers and editors alike, pondering on the massive bulk of medical journals that constantly demands new library shelving, must earnestly hope that authors will cultivate the virtue of brevity.

When *Heart* was started in 1909 it was the first journal in Britain and one of the first in the world to be devoted entirely to cardiology, but a journal for neurology came much earlier. *Brain* was started in 1879 and has continued successfully with classic contributions from most of the great British neurologists; three of the four original editors were Fellows of the Royal Society, and ten of the contributors to the first volume are well-known names, even to a cardiologist. It is surprising that neurology should have acquired its special journal so early, only one year after Langley had founded the *Journal of Physiology* in 1878—a journal that will surely rank high for the number of classical papers that it has published and for the standards that it has set.

These are, of course, very recent dates compared with some scientific journals even among the biological sciences, for the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, which contained many early medical contributions, has been published regularly since 1665. Medical papers in the 18th century were often published in the transactions of clinical or pathological societies, both in London and in the provinces, and in the following century in the special journals of medical schools and hospitals.

The association between Sir Thomas Lewis and the *British Heart Journal* was enhanced by the foreword he wrote for our first number. He recorded shortly the great names in British Cardiology, and from his wide experience gave advice to authors on how they should write. The Editors hope that every contributor will study this short foreword, for Lewis maintained that his own clear concise style was not a natural gift, but one that had been acquired by hard work in writing clearly and exactly what he meant, and in pruning away every redundant word.

We are glad to join with our sister journal, *Clinical Science*, in commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of *Heart*, and in paying tribute to the great discoveries of James Mackenzie and Thomas Lewis and those who worked with them fifty years ago.

MAURICE CAMPBELL