

## FOREWORD

BY

SIR THOMAS LEWIS

The Cardiac Society of Great Britain and Ireland has decided that it is expedient for it to possess its own journal. The size of the society and the activity of many of its members render such a decision not only wise but inevitable.

There is no stronger tradition, concerning work upon the heart, than the British. Traced from the incomparable Harvey in the early part of the seventeenth century, through Richard Lower and Stephen Hales, the illustrious band of workers has been swollen by the great clinicians of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Heberden, Parry, Withering, Corrigan, Hope, Stokes, Peacock, Ringer, Mackenzie, and by the great physiologists, Gaskell and Starling. All these names from the distant and recent past are linked with outstanding contributions to our knowledge of the heart and its maladies ; their work forms a legacy of great achievement. The members of the Cardiac Society of Great Britain and Ireland are the chief trustees of this legacy, and its weighty responsibility.

The success of the new journal will depend upon the quality and not primarily upon the quantity of the matter which it publishes. Originality of observation and of view will be the touchstone of quality. The work of editing is uncreative : an editor can publish only what is offered ; he will use most of what is offered. The journal's success is governed, therefore, from the source of the material. The best contributors will submit for publication only sound and original matter and thought. They will edit their own work ; will judge their own text impartially and will prune it ruthlessly, thinking of the standard of work accomplished and to be reported and not of personal interest ; they will prepare their manuscript in all particulars to save further labour ; they will facilitate the

reading by every device of conciseness, of simplicity, of clarity, and of accuracy, in composing text, figure explanation, and reference ; for every hour so spent by one who writes will save countless hours by the many who afterwards read. They will remember that the work of editing is a gratuitous and unenviable task, and they will bow loyally to editorial decision.

To express the hope that the new journal will come to possess many contributors of this kind is to give the fullest wishes for the journal's real and lasting success.