Editorial

Cardiac Club 1922: Cardiac Society of Great Britain and Ireland 1937

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This year sees the Golden Jubilee of the transformation of the Cardiac Club into the Cardiac Society of Great Britain and Ireland, now known as the British Cardiac Society. The origins of both the Cardiac Club and the Cardiac Society were recounted in an article in the first issue of the *British Heart Journal* published in 1939,¹ which we reprint in this issue so that our readers can more easily appreciate the events. Fortunately we have been able to obtain from one of the founding fathers, indeed the first President of the Cardiac Society, a more personal account of the circumstances.² The invitation to Gilchrist produced a quick response, and the article was written in his elegant hand, clearly legible, and ready for the printer as it stood. It is gratifying to know that several of the founding fathers are with us and able to see with what pleasure we commemorate their vision in establishing the Society half a century ago.

The *British Heart Journal* is two years younger than the Cardiac Society, and as its official organ we are happy to publish a series of Jubilee editorials which will try to reflect a selected series of devel-

opments in cardiology that span the time of the establishment of the Society and that have continued to be important to this day. In selecting the topics and writers, it was gratifying to see what a fruitful period this has been for British cardiology. In addition to our usual papers, each subsequent issue will start with a Jubilee editorial written in this spirit. One subject of considerable importance, to which the British contribution has been substantial, has been omitted and that is cardiac surgery; having read the recent review by Cleland, we realised how difficult it would be for anyone else to cover the subject without trespassing on his achievement.³

References

- 1 Cowan J and others. Some notes on the Cardiac Club. *Br Heart J* 1939;1:97-104 (see also this issue, pages 3-10).
- 2 Gilchrist R. British Cardiac Society — Golden Jubilee. *Br Heart J* 1987;57:2.
- 3 Cleland WP. The evolution of cardiac surgery in the United Kingdom. *Thorax* 1983;38:887-96.