

EDITORIAL

At a time of rapid expansion in the sphere of scientific publications an editorial introduction to a new medical journal might understandably sound an apologetic note. This is unnecessary, however, in the case of *Psychological Medicine*, sponsored by the British Medical Association and devoted primarily to research in clinical psychiatry and its allied sciences. The need for a journal of this type has been apparent for some time. Over the past generation academic psychiatry has been notably developed in Great Britain and has led to a greatly enlarged research output which seems certain to increase in the future. The evidence indicates that there is already insufficient space for scientific papers in British journals and that many workers are having to publish abroad. Further, the breadth of the spectrum of subjects related to psychiatry, extending as it does from the fundamental biological disciplines to the behavioural or social sciences and the history of ideas, has led to the appearance of much material with psychiatric implications in journals which are not readily accessible to most psychiatrists.

For these reasons the speedy publication of relevant, inevitably variegated papers of high scientific standard from the United Kingdom and other countries is manifestly important.

It remains only to comment on the name of a journal with this objective. In the United Kingdom 'psychological medicine' is an ill-defined term which is nonetheless widely enough accepted to designate textbooks, academic titles, hospital departments, and examination diplomas; elsewhere it is rarely employed. Perhaps, therefore, it may be taken as an appropriately national title for a forward-looking venture whose success will be judged by the quality of the contributions from its readers.