Editorial

This number is a Festschrift (the idea coming from Dr. John Hamerton) and is composed of papers on Ophthalmological Genetics, being a tribute to Professor Arnold Sorsby on his retirement from the Editorship. It is of interest that as far back as 1948 Sorsby saw the need for the present journal, and with Dr. J. A. Fraser Roberts asked Dr. Hugh Clegg about the possibility of getting it started. A meeting was called with Dr. E. A. Cockayne in the chair, but after a discussion, and on Professor L. S. Penrose’s advice, the matter was dropped. Sixteen years later Dr. Clegg reopened the question, Arnold Sorsby agreed to take on the editorship, and the first number was published in 1964.

Under Sorsby’s skillful direction there has been great expansion of the journal, the average number of pages in each issue having risen from 72 to over 100. Throughout his period of editorship the emphasis has been on clinical genetics, and there is no doubt that the journal has made a great contribution to the way in which the medical profession has taken to the subject.

The papers in this Festschrift come from many different countries, and are a measure of the wide appreciation of Sorsby’s work and the esteem in which he is held. They fall into various groups: Waardenburg pays a personal tribute; there are clinical descriptions of genetic diseases, particularly in Scandinavian island populations; the ocular complications of chromosomal abnormalities are discussed in relation to the autosomes, and, more speculatively, to Klinefelter’s syndrome; while ‘Eyes on Chromosomes’ focuses on linkage data. There are contributions on the genetic factors in both open and closed angle glaucoma, on biochemical abnormalities in retinal dystrophy, and a most useful technique is described for the investigation of inherited degenerative disorders of the fundus oculi. There are also discussions on visual troubles in childhood and a review article on colour vision.

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