

Editorial

Forthcoming Plans for the Journal

It is three years since this *Journal* (under its old name of *Journal of Mental Science*) changed from quarterly to bi-monthly publication, and a further change is now called for. From January 1965 it will appear monthly, and subscribers will receive 12 numbers during the year. Although the individual issues will naturally be smaller, it is expected that the total number of pages for the year will be increased by about 50 per cent. Single numbers will be priced at 12s. 6d., but for the first year there will be no increase in the yearly subscription rate, which will remain at £6.

The purpose of the change is to provide a better service both to the *Journal's* readers and to the scientific workers who offer papers for publication. We hope that we shall be able to find room for the increasing number of papers of merit which are being submitted, and also to be able to reduce the present considerable time-lag between the receipt of a paper and its appearance in print.

We recognize, however, that with the best of intentions it is not possible to bring out a formal paper without a delay of some months. It is at times important to bring observations or considerations to the notice of the psychiatric public with as little delay as possible. We hope that authors will make use of our correspondence columns for such purposes. Preliminary communications will be acceptable for publication in this way, and if acceptable will appear in the next issue not yet made up. It must be understood that authors will have to bear more complete responsibility for such communications

than for those which have gone through the normal processes of careful assessment and editorial scrutiny.

Monthly publication will, we believe, bring greater life and immediacy to our correspondence columns. We hope that they will be fully used by our readers to debate issues of more than temporary or parochial importance, and to develop discussions of published articles and of the observations and the conclusions they contain.

We hope also that the greater amount of space available, combined with the shorter interval between dates of publication, will aid the flow of original contributions. At the present time psychiatry is a very rapidly expanding field of knowledge on very many of its frontiers. The editorial policy of this *Journal* is essentially to have no policy. We are prepared to accept papers on any subject which the broad mantle of psychiatry can cover. This does not mean that there are absolutely no limitations. Communications of a very highly specialized or technical kind, for which other specialized journals are available, may have to be given a lower priority than papers for which a general psychiatric journal is clearly appropriate. Historical surveys and critical reviews are very welcome, and essays and purely theoretical discussions are not in principle unacceptable; but first and foremost this *Journal* is an organ for the communication of the kind of information which can be subject to test, confirmation and refutation, and such articles, coming from all parts of the globe, are received with the greatest appreciation.