

**INFECTION  
CONTROL**
**Of Roman Gods  
and a New Journal**

The Roman deity, Janus, guardian of the doors and gates of heaven, presided over the entrance upon, or beginning of, all things. In that special duty, he is portrayed with one face on the front and another on the back of his head, representing simultaneous vigils over past and future events. It seems appropriate to recall Janus in 1980 not only as we enter a new year and a new decade but also as we introduce a scientific journal that focuses on hospital epidemiology and all aspects of infection control.

The modern era of hospital infection control is short, originating only 20 years ago in Great Britain with the employment of an infection control sister.<sup>1,2</sup> The concept survived the Atlantic crossing, and in 1970 the first International Conference on Nosocomial Infections was held in Atlanta.<sup>3</sup> That meeting was followed by the formation of an Association for Practitioners of Infection Control (APIC) in 1972. Since then, heightened interest in hospital epidemiology and infection control has been evidenced by national meetings of physician epidemiologists at the ICAAC conferences in 1978 and 1979, circulation of a popular newsletter,\* recent publication of books related to infection control,<sup>4-6</sup> and introduction of three journals on infection control in 1980.† Thus, with respect to the developments of a commitment to the field and of a formal literature, we are indeed at the end of the beginning.

The purpose of *INFECTION CONTROL* is to present scientifically sound primary investigations, reviews, and articles in related areas, such as trends in medicolegal decisions, assessments of vaccine use, and patterns of antimicrobial resistance. Although its principal focus will be on nosocomial infections, *INFECTION CONTROL* also encourages contributions dealing with issues similar to those mentioned in communities around the globe. The journal is directed broadly to those interested in the investigation and prevention of infections—physicians, practitioners, epidemiologists, and microbiologists in both academic and community settings in all countries. In this respect the task of the editors is to insure that clarity of thought is conveyed through simplicity of language.

Several steps have been taken to ensure the success of

\**Hospital Infection Control*, published by American Health Consultants Inc., Atlanta.

†In addition to *INFECTION CONTROL*, there are *The Journal of Hospital Infection*, London, Academic Press, and *The American Journal of Infection Control*, St. Louis, CV Mosby.

this new venture. The publishers have a respected reputation in medical publishing and are committed to quality and to science. The editorial board is strong, energetic, and broadly experienced in various medical disciplines.

Although the control of infections is inherently a multi-disciplinary field, it has been difficult during these early years to provide a common forum for the exchange of ideas. Our present knowledge is limited and our working assumption is that by rigorously addressing basic questions we may find truth. It is hoped that these pages will provide a vehicle for the testing of ideas and the emergence of new insights with practical applications. As such, *INFECTION CONTROL* will support the needs of members of various learned societies, including the Infectious Diseases Society of America, APIC, American Society of Microbiology, American Society of Clinical Pathologists, and the Society for Epidemiologic Research, as well as similar scholarly organizations abroad.

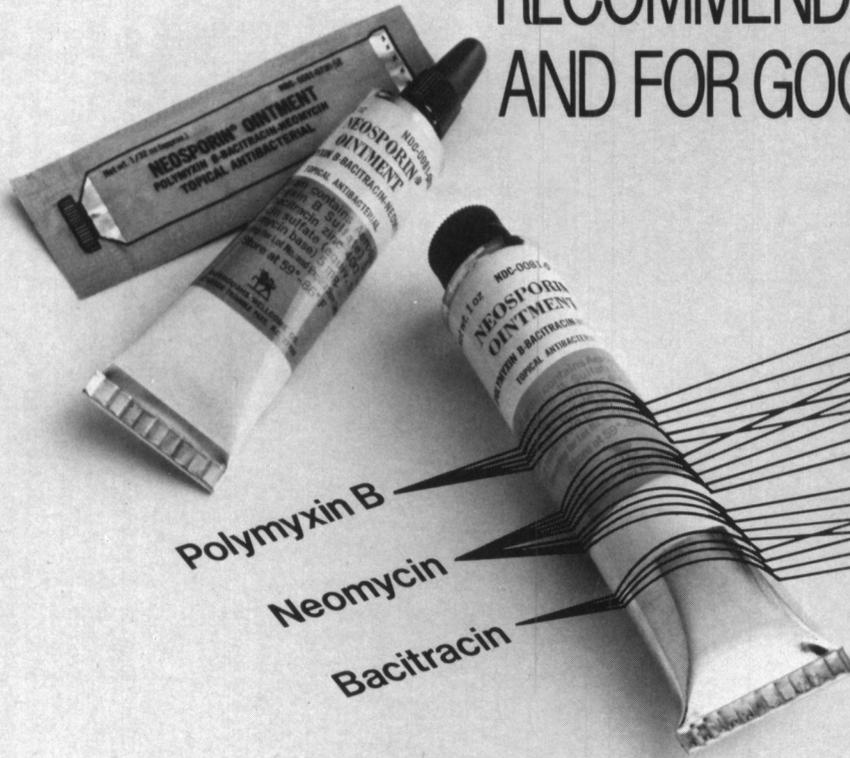
With these goals in mind, we launch a new journal in 1980 in the month dedicated to the memory of Janus. It is customary as we enter a new year and a new decade to review our aspirations, having taken stock of recent efforts. In introducing *INFECTION CONTROL* we are mindful of the past, yet look forward to new challenges, new adventures, new friends, and new successes. We welcome your participation.

**REFERENCES**

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