

FOREWORD

The first issue of a *British Journal of Pharmacology and Chemotherapy* is a notable event. It is not, of course, to be supposed that the growing volume and importance of pharmacological publication which have justified it, which, indeed, have created the need for it, represent a movement which is special to Britain ; the phenomenon is to be seen throughout the scientific world. Pharmacology, we should recognize, has rapidly risen to major rank among the group of scientific disciplines which come within the scope of experimental medicine. This promotion has obviously been accelerated by the growing influence in practical therapeutics which Pharmacology has acquired through the recent development of its vigorous offspring, Chemotherapy—a fact fittingly recognized in the new Journal's title.

The event is one which naturally revives memories of the foundation, some 37 years ago, of the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics* by the late J. J. Abel, whose leadership and personal inspiration had already done so much to establish a vigorous school of Pharmacology in the United States of America. At that time, though Scotland had Chairs of Pharmacology at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee, with distinguished incumbents, England had, so far, recognized a need for only one full-time Chair, which had been created four years earlier at University College, London. A. R. Cushny, who had been a pupil of Cash at Aberdeen, and later of Schmiedeberg, and had been Abel's successor at Ann Arbor, Michigan, had come back in 1905 to be the first holder of the new Chair at University College. W. E. Dixon, though still holding a position of minor academic rank, was then already creating a centre of lively interest and experimental activity in Pharmacology at Cambridge, and R. B. Wilde, though largely occupied in clinical work, was giving a regular course in Pharmacology from a Chair in Liverpool. For the rest of England, those who found their way into Pharmacology had done so largely by natural interest and their own unguided exploration.

To all these the launching of the *Journal of Pharmacology* by Abel had provided a much-needed outlet for pharmacological papers in the English

language. The earlier volumes of that Journal bear witness to the fact that, from the outset, it offered effective hospitality to papers by British workers. Their opportunities of publication had otherwise been almost limited to the weekly medical journals and the *Journal of Physiology*; and the editor of the latter, the late J. N. Langley, was showing a steadily increasing reluctance to accept papers which could be regarded as pharmacological. I well remember going in 1911 to consult Cushny about a difficulty created for me by Langley's refusal of a paper of mine, for the reason that Pharmacology was encroaching unduly on his space. I suggested to Cushny that, while we were all grateful to Abel's Journal for what it was already doing for us, we should feel happier if, though still published at Baltimore, it could be recognized as having a wider, English-speaking interest and editorial responsibility. The upshot was a friendly negotiation leading to a joint editorial control of the Journal by Abel and Cushny, assisted by advisers of whom several were now to be British. The arrangement lasted in that form till Cushny's premature death in 1926, and then, with successors in due course to Abel as well as to Cushny, till the present time. It has served British Pharmacology well, and we have abundant reason to be grateful to our American colleagues for these 35 years of association and shared responsibility. We may regard it, perhaps, as an early, spontaneous and limited example of that wider collaboration between the scientists of the English-speaking nations which in the recent war became so intimate and so efficiently organized.

On the maintenance of that full and friendly collaboration in science much may depend for the future of the world, and we must hope to make it even stronger and closer in Pharmacology than it has been. On the other hand, it is necessary to watch developments which the demands of war itself have accelerated, and to recognize the likelihood of a rapidly and healthily growing demand for space to publish papers dealing with Pharmacology and Chemotherapy. On both sides of the Atlantic the intensive and organized researches of the war period must have caused a serious accumulation of such matter. Pharmacologists, too, of countries which have suffered aggression and spoliation in war may well be seeking opportunity for publication, of which their own countries cannot yet offer a prospect. It would not be fair to expect a single journal to cope with these heavy arrears, as well as with the expanded output which the wartime development is certain to leave as a lasting consequence, and, at the same time, to ensure promptitude of publication for important new discoveries in this widening field, from Britain and British Dominions as well as from the United States of America. The British Pharmacological Society, which had come into existence long after Abel's *Journal of Pharmacology* was founded, accordingly reviewed the position and came to the conclusion that they could best serve the common interest, and best show their lasting gratitude for the friendly help and collaboration they have received from their American colleagues, by starting a separate Journal, edited and published in Britain, and thus lightening

the prospective load on the one in which they have, for so many years, been generously allowed to have a share of interest and control. The British Medical Association has offered to sponsor the new *British Journal of Pharmacology* and to be responsible for the technical aspects of its publication, leaving the editorial responsibility entirely in the hands of a Board appointed by the British Pharmacological Society. It is certainly the hope of everybody concerned with the venture, that there will still be abundant opportunities of co-operation and friendly interchange between the new British Journal and the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, which has so long and so well served British as well as American achievements in this field.

March 12, 1946.

H. H. D.