As we have now completed our second year as Editor it is opportune to review the "state of the republic" as we see it.

We have had a most gratifying response to our request for material not only in quantity but also in quality and we hope that this pattern will be continued. The backlog of papers has been reduced and the time between final acceptance of a paper and its appearance in print is now under 12 months.

The Correspondence Column is also, at long last, showing signs of life but is still capable of some growth.

May we once again invite the attention of contributors to the Important Notice printed on the inside of the front cover which gives guidance on how contributions should be presented. In particular would contributors pay attention to the remarks on references as these are probably the items which give the editorial staff the most time and trouble when preparing papers for the press.

It will not have escaped the notice of our readers that the issues of the Journal are appearing long after their planned dates. These delays are caused by production difficulties which are outside the control of the editorial staff and we would in consequence ask our subscribers not to bombard us with questions as to why their numbers are not to hand.


At a meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of London on 26 April 1973, Sir Norman Talbot was elected to the Fellowship of the College "honoris causa". Such an honour is accorded to those who have distinguished themselves in medical, scientific and, on rare occasions, in other spheres. This admission recognises his outstanding administrative work and leadership as Director-General of Army Medical Services, an appointment which he relinquished on 5 April 1973; it also pays tribute to the quality of his clinical work as a consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology which he had to give up on assuming administrative appointments.

Election to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians is a signal honour for any man. That Sir Norman has been elected does honour also to the Army Medical Services which he served so devotedly for thirty-four years.

Birthday Honours List 1973

The following awards were published in the London Gazette on 2 June 1973.
