EDITORIAL

CONTRIBUTIONS

We are now in our fourth year as Editor and are happy to report that the supply of papers submitted for publication continues satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

With regard to quality, readers will appreciate that the better the copy we send to our printers the better the final result will be. In this respect it would greatly assist if authors could submit papers with the Tables and Illustrations separate from the Text as different sections of our printers deal with these three items. It is not until the "Paste-up" stage that the Tables and Illustrations are inserted in their appropriate place in the text. We realise that authors have a dread of finding their papers printed with the tables and illustrations en bloc at the end of the text, but confirm that every effort is made to place them in their correct position when the final proofs are prepared.

MEDICAL OFFICERS’ WIVES

As some of our readers are aware we spend our time at Millbank in dealing with the Journal and with the Historical Library. As the result of our activities in these two fields we have become aware of a most surprising gap in our records. Doctors belong to a much married profession and the Army doctor does not differ in this respect and yet so far as we are aware no records, letters or accounts of our wives exist in our archives or in the back numbers of our Journal. Indeed the only record of this sort we know of is that written by a Quartermaster’s wife.

The reason for this odd state of affairs escapes us as our experience has been that wives are seldom silent, usually articulate and frequently voluble (we wish to make it clear so as to preserve our marital peace that our remarks are not based solely on our own partner but on Corps wives as a whole!). Further, most medical officers’ wives have come and continue to come from the professional classes so that they play a very full part in their husband’s lives e.g. a very obvious example of this is Lady Bruce who played so important a role in all aspects of her husband’s career including the professional side. Wives—especially if overseas with time on their hands (We think in particular of 19th Century India) quite often filled in the spare hours by keeping journals and in writing letters. Who knows that a journal kept by a Corps Florence Sale yet awaits recognition?

We would therefore conclude with an appeal that if any journals or collections of letters exist in your family written by a Medical Officer’s wife, might we please see them because without them our past picture is so incomplete.