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# Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

## Editorial Note

We are very happy to be able to announce the forthcoming publication of a series of authoritative articles written by Senior Officers of the United States Army Medical Corps. The scope and nature of these articles will be seen to cover a wide field and to deal mainly with organization, training and administration.

Our especial thanks are due to Major-General George E. Armstrong, Deputy Surgeon General, for the enthusiasm with which he has entered into this project. He is writing the first article himself and has infected his colleagues with no little of his own zeal.

We owe a great deal to Lieutenant-Colonel Meneces, R.A.M.C., and to Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Matheson, R.A.M.C., Medical Liaison Officer in Washington, who took this proposal up to General Armstrong on Colonel Meneces' recent visit to Mexico and the U.S.

The importance of these articles will be realized even by looking at the authors' names and appointments and we consider ourselves fortunate to have secured such a whole-hearted and generous response to a somewhat tentative suggestion.

### PROPOSED LIST OF ARTICLES ON THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS FOR THE R.A.M.C. JOURNAL

<i>Author</i>	<i>Subject</i>
I. Major-General George E. Armstrong, Deputy Surgeon General	U.S. Army and the Civilian Medical Profession
II. Colonel Paul I. Robinson, M.C., Chief, Personnel Division, Surgeon General Office	About the Personnel Division
III. Colonel Paul I. Robinson, M.C., Chief, Personnel Division, Surgeon General Office	Career Management
IV. Colonel F. L. Wergeland, M.C., Chief, Education and Training Division, U.S. Army	Education and Training in the U.S. Army Medical Department

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| V. Brigadier-General J. Martin, <i>M.C.</i> ,<br>Commanding General, Medical Field<br>Service School                    | The Medical Field Service School                        |
| VI. Colonel O. F. Goriup, <i>M.S.C.</i> , Chief,<br>Medical Service Corps, U.S. Army                                    | The Medical Service Corps                               |
| VII. Colonel Walter H. Moursund, <i>M.C.</i> ,<br>Director, Graduate Education Army<br>Medical Center, Washington, D.C. | Basic Sciences in Military Medical<br>Graduate Training |

## THE JOURNAL OF THE R.A.M.C.

### A Letter from the Director-General

I AM writing to tell you of the difficult times through which the Corps Journal is passing at present, and at the same time of the steps which are being taken to overcome them. The Journal has incurred a loss of about £1,000 during the past two years and there are three main reasons for this loss.

First the increase in the cost of printing which has risen from 18s. 6d. per page in 1941 to 36s. 6d. per page today. Second, the reduction in the income from advertisements which has fallen from £1,200 per year three years ago to £600 this year. Third, the serious fall in circulation—at present fewer than 40 per cent of regular officers subscribe to the Journal, and numbers are falling each month.

The increase in the cost of printing is self-explanatory and we can do nothing about it. The loss of revenue from advertisements is due to fewer firms wishing to advertise in the Journal because of the lower circulation.

At first sight it seemed attractive to publish the Journal quarterly instead of monthly and cut down the costs of production, but looking into this further, it became clear that much of the revenue comes from advertisements, and the loss from this source with only four issues a year would be serious. It was decided instead to continue a monthly publication, and to take on a new advertising agency which has every hope of increasing the number of advertisements. At the same time it will be necessary to reduce slightly the size of the Journal, in order to cut down the costs of production until we can see ahead more clearly. Every effort will be made to ensure punctual publication each month and do away with the present time lag.

The Committee rules out the possibility of increasing the subscription thinking that, in these hard times, this might reduce the number of subscribers still further; at the same time I wish to emphasize the fact that a subscription of a pound a year for a scientific journal plus a regimental magazine is comparatively small by present standards.

An Editorial Advisory Committee has been formed consisting of the Directors of Medicine, Surgery, Army Health, Pathology and Psychiatry, the Inspector of Training and a senior T.A. officer who is a civil consultant. The functions of this committee will be to stimulate through Corps channels contributions of suitable articles for publication.

You may complain that the Journal has become dull and there is lack of articles of interest. If this is true the remedy lies in our own hands. The trouble is so many of us are too mentally lazy to commit our experiences to paper. If we had the stimulus to apply ourselves there is no lack of interesting experience and work in the Corps today which would readily fill our pages. I ask these potential writers to give their mental inertia a prod, and the Advisory Committee has been appointed with precisely this object. I am told that what the Editor would particularly like are articles of 3,000 to 5,000 words, as well as the larger ones of 5,000 to 7,000 words. The subject of these articles should be original work, clinical case reports, and personal experiences. But he puts in a special plea—please don't send articles requiring a lot of illustrations as they are very expensive to reproduce.

I appeal to every officer to support the Journal which has had such a fine scientific reputation. I know there are many calls upon your purse in these difficult days but I feel that any regular officer who does not subscribe is failing to keep himself abreast of current military medicine. The Journal has been in existence for forty-five years and it would be sad indeed to see it disappear. There is not the slightest reason that it should if the Editor and his staff, the Editorial Advisory Committee and the subscribing officers, both regular and short service, will all pull their weight in their respective spheres. Our temporary difficulties would then soon disappear.

I am sure that now you know the position I will not appeal in vain.

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