

# Editorial

On the occasion of the Vith Congress of the European Society of Pathology, coinciding as it does with the golden jubilee year of the Association of Clinical Pathologists, we are happy to take note of the past, present, and future of European pathology. The past is symbolised by the Journal's cover page; the present and the future lie in the contents. In particular, readers will find the comprehensive review of pathology training and qualifications in the EEC countries topical and instructive: the diversity is bewildering but it may indicate to the true biologist a sign of health. Diversity is also the key to other papers; for the future and for the benefit of new readers we should re-state our aims.

The *Journal of Clinical Pathology* is open to papers on all topics which are of direct relevance to the practice of clinical pathology, especially those that may cause us to look at our methods and interpretations anew. Although many articles will be of practical concern to one discipline alone we shall exclude papers for the superspecialist; a unique new haemoglobin, a taxonomic quirk among the *Escherichia*, a comparison of two obscure isozymes or a variant of a congenital abnormality—these can find pages waiting to be filled in a myriad of other journals. Similarly, experimental pathology, unless of immediate practical importance, should find expression elsewhere.

The Journal welcomes the following: original articles, especially those of multidisciplinary interest; descriptions of new methods and apparatus from the humblest wire-loop upwards; comparisons of methods and of test reagents (there is a need for consumer guidance through the claims of commerce but we shall remain as sensitive to the charge of free advertising as to the law of libel and we must hope that our advertisers will not desert us); case reports if important in principle and not just as collector's pieces; letters either in response to articles or as short new communications; reviews (solicited and unsolicited); memorial lectures (rarely); and poetry (even more rarely). The Journal will not accept preliminary communications—too often a device to secure unmerited priority or to serve up results which adequate analysis would show to be worthless or misleading.

We like to receive papers from all parts of the world but matters which are of mainly local interest should also have a general importance in pathology. All papers are assessed anonymously by one, two or occasionally three referees as well as enduring the editor's scrutiny, except that obviously inappropriate articles will not be sent out for assessment.

Front cover (Top) *Giovanni Battista Morgagni (1682-1771)*. In *An Introduction to the History of Medicine, 4th ed.*, by Fielding H. Garrison, p. 354. Saunders, Philadelphia and London, 1929.

(Left) *Rudolf Virchow (1821-1902)*. In *Rudolf Virchow: Doctor, Statesman, Anthropologist* by Erwin H. Ackerknecht. Frontispiece. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1953

(Right) *Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)*. In *Pasteur: The History of a Mind* by Emile Duclaux, facing p. 353. Saunders, Philadelphia and London, 1920.