

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

There are many ways in which scientific and medical discoveries can be conveyed to the outside world. They can be presented orally at congresses and seminars, workshop sessions and closed door meetings or perhaps more relevant to this "instant" world through the mass media either by radio or television. The term Television Medicine has gained prominence both in the United Kingdom and the Republic. Nevertheless, no matter how such information is disseminated, in order that such information is not lost, the written or printed word reigns supreme. Hence it is good therapeutics at the beginning of a new Editorial Board to gaze into the crystal ball or follow Alice through the looking glass and see what new directions the Singapore Medical Journal can map out for itself. The high standard with which the medical journal is regarded by the profession is no longer in doubt. There is no shortage of scientific articles - in fact no one week passes without two or three communications landing on the Editor's desk. These are vetted for their scientific value by our Associate Editors and members of the Editorial Advisory Board. These communications come not only from the Singapore and Malaysia area but we get regular contributions and enquiries as far away as Australasia, the Indian subcontinent and Sri

Lanka. All this success no doubt is due to the valiant efforts of our former Editors and their team to whom we all owe a vote of gratitude.

However a medical journal should not only be a passive reporter of research results. It should be alive to the advances made in the world of medicine either in the field of therapeutics, primary care or new diseases. It should also be an organ of communication between doctors who have clinical problems. Hence in future issues we hope to incorporate new departments like modern trends in therapy, invited reviews by guest contributors and a forum where doctors with clinical problems can consult each other. At a still later date we may even have a Letter to the Editor Column along the lines of other prestigious medical journals.

This volume therefore addresses itself to the silent majority - those who have not contributed to a medical journal, address a public meeting or even written to the press. We need your support, your fresh ideas and your views. For in the final analysis when we look through the looking glass, your own image looks straight back at you. This surely confirms the fact that the future is now and self-reliance is for those who wish to see it.