THE JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOLOGY

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

by

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The first issue of the *Journal of Laryngology and Rhinology* appeared in January 1887. Its editors were Sir Morell Mackenzie (Fig. 1) and R. Norris Wolfenden (Fig. 2), and it was published by Messrs. J. & A. Churchill.

Although it had been preceded by several specialist journals on the mainland of Europe, notably in Germany and France, it was 'the first periodical devoted to Nose and Throat Surgery in the English Language' (Bateman, 1965).

In 1892, five years after its foundation, *Otology* was added to the title, but it was not until 1921 that the *Journal of Laryngology and Otology* adopted its present title, under the editorship of A. Logan Turner and J. S. Fraser in Edinburgh.

The second and third volumes were published by R. Anderson & Co., of Cockspur Street in London, and simultaneously an American edition was published by Blakiston Son & Co. of Philadelphia, there being no specialist journal published in America at that time.

The fourth volume was published by F. A. Davis, of London and Philadelphia, and although these publishers continued to produce the *Journal* in Philadelphia at least until 1899, F. J. Rebman undertook the production of the seventh volume in London and continued to publish it until 1903, when it was taken over by Messrs. Adlard and Sons.

During the First World War the *Journal* dwindled in quality and size, and changes in its ownership took place at the end of 1920 whereby members of the specialty formed a limited liability company called the Journal of Laryngology and Otology Ltd., which purchased all its assets and its goodwill.

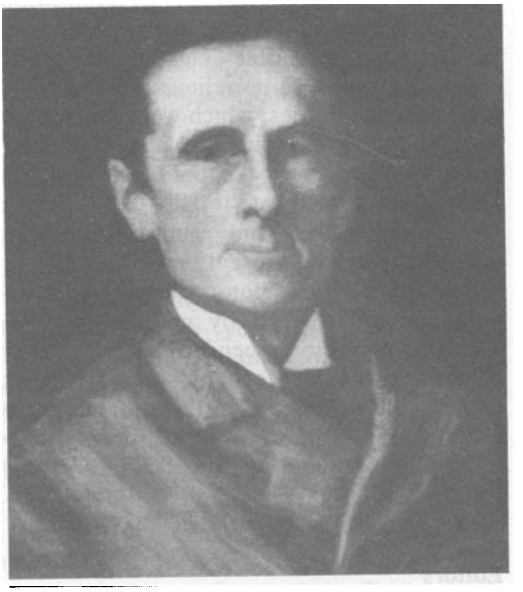


FIG. 1
Sir Morell Mackenzie.

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FIG. 2
R. Norris Wolfenden.

When Logan Turner and Fraser became editors of the *Journal* in 1921, its publication was transferred to Messrs. Oliver and Boyd in Edinburgh, but after eight years they expressed a wish to be relieved of their editorial responsibilities, which were taken over by Walter Howarth in January 1929. Four years later, in 1933, the publication of the *Journal* was transferred to Headley Brothers Ltd. in Ashford, Kent, and there it has remained until the present day.

The shares of this non-profit making company are still owned by members of the specialty or their descendents, and as they become available they are sold to present members of the specialty at a nominal sum.

The company has recently become a Registered Charity under the title of 'J.L.O. (1984) Limited'.

Editors

Sir Morell Mackenzie was born on 8 July 1838, the eldest of eight children of a General Practitioner. He is remembered particularly for the controversy surrounding his management of the case of Frederick III, Crown Prince of Germany.

'Mackenzie would have been in practice some 26 years when, on the evening of May 18, 1887, according to his own description, he sat in his consultation room when there was a knock on the door. The caller was Dr. John Reid, physician to Queen Victoria. He requested Dr. Mackenzie (to) leave immediately, for consultation with the Queen's son-in-law, Frederick III, Crown Prince of Germany' (Chalat, 1984).

That was the year in which he founded the *Journal*.

Morell Mackenzie's self-defence against the many criticisms levelled at him in this celebrated case was published in the following year under the title of 'The Fatal Illness of Frederick the Noble'; and the definitive biography of Sir Morell was written by the late Robert Scott Stevenson (Stevenson, 1946).

Much of the preparatory work for this biography was done in the Garrison Library in Gibraltar, where I served my initial apprenticeship in the specialty under Scott Stevenson as 'Trainee Otologist' in the Army; and I have been steeped in the story for over 40 years.

Less well known are facts about the other co-founder of the *Journal*, Mr. Norris Wolfenden, another remarkable man who also played a part in the care of the Crown Prince.

He was one of the physicians to the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat in Golden Square, London, founded by Morell Mackenzie in 1863 and closed in 1985; and he was 'resident medical attendant' to Frederick the Noble when he was staying at Upper Norwood in June 1887.

Norris Wolfenden was even more active than Mackenzie himself in the early affairs of the *Journal*, and the first number opened with a critical review, by Wolfenden, of O'Dwyer's method of intubation of the larynx. Indeed in his earlier 'History of the Journal of Laryngology and Otology', Ormerod (1952) wrote that 'The early numbers of the Journal indicate the great enterprise and industry of Norris Wolfenden by the numbers of original articles, reviews and abstracts which flowed from his pen'.

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When he died at the age of 72, Dundas Grant (1926) wrote an obituary. 'Being well provided with this world's goods', wrote Dundas Grant, 'he (Wolfenden) was able, when it was his pleasure, to retire from the active practice of his profession, but this was not with him a reason for indulging in the *dolce far niente*, as he threw himself into the study of marine zoology'.

He had played an important part in the advancement of knowledge in scientific laryngology, particularly in tuberculous and malignant disease of the larynx.

He was also a skilful musician and he conducted an orchestra at the London Hospital. A late physician at that hospital 'expressed the opinion that he was a good man *in spite of his being a musician*' (My italics).

'A certain amount of pride', continued Dundas Grant, 'with a touch of arrogance gave him an air of distinction which was not unbecoming . . . His quiet qualities, however, far outweighed this little defect'.

In the fifth volume, in 1891, Morell Mackenzie had retired from his post as editor, and Wolfenden was then assisted by John Macintyre of Glasgow; in the following year, Dundas Grant joined them as third editor. It was in that year that the title was changed from the *Journal of Laryngology and Rhinology* to the *Journal of Laryngology, Rhinology and Otology*, with Dundas Grant in charge of the *Otology* section; and it was also the year in which Morell Mackenzie died.

Two Assistant Editors were added for the eighth volume: Dr. Arthur Sandford of Cork and Dr. (later Sir) William Milligan of Manchester.

At the end of the tenth volume, in 1896, Norris Wolfenden retired form the Editorial Board which, in 1899, consisted of John Macintyre, Arthur Sandford and Richard Lake, the last-named being described as Managing Editor; William Milligan and Jobson Horne were then sub-editors.

Richard Lake left the Editorial Board in 1903, when he was succeeded by William Miligan; and in 1909, Dundas Grant became Controlling Editor.

Two years later, Dan McKenzie had become the Editor, and he was supported by an impressive Editorial Committee of six: Dundas Grant, St. Clair Thomson, Logan Turner, Milligan, (Patrick) Watson-Williams and (Macleod) Yearsley.

It was in 1921 that the *Journal* first appeared under the present title, under the editorship of A. Logan Turner and J. S. Fraser, both of Edinburgh; but it returned to London in January 1929, when Walter Howarth became its editor, at first with the assistance of Negus and Watkyn-Thomas and later of Mollison.

Walter Howarth edited the *Journal* for an astounding thirty-two years.

Soon after the formation of the British Association of Otolaryngologists, in 1943, Howarth resisted attempts to make the *Journal* the official organ of the Association; but he agreed to the nomination, by the Association, of four members to form an Editorial Board. These were Sir Victor Negus, R. G. Macbeth, J. F. Simpson and G. H. (Later Sir Geoffrey) Bateman.

This Editorial Board was short-lived, but when Walter Howarth became mortally ill in 1961, his editorial duties were taken over by Sir Geoffrey Bateman, who continued to hold that office until the end of 1977, and into 1978.

At first he was assisted by the late lamented Lionel Taylor, and it was my privilege to join him briefly as second Assistant Editor, later succeeding him as Assistant Editor in January 1973.

When Sir Geoffrey retired from the editorship after 16 years, I succeeded him in January 1978, and soon afterwards I was joined by David Wright (in May 1978) and John Booth (in January 1979) as Assistant Editors.

Throughout my period as Editor, and indeed for many years beforehand, the *Journal* has been extremely fortunate in being able to draw upon the unique experience of Professor Imrich Friedmann, as Adviser in Pathology.

Contents

The first issue of the *Journal*, 100 years ago, opened with a Review Article and it also contained 'abstracts of papers in British and foreign (sic) journals and reports of meetings . . . Each monthly number followed the same line' (Ormerod, 1952).

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In the second volume, 'A change was introduced in that the first article, instead of being a critical review by one of the editorial staff, became an original signed article by an eminent laryngologist . . . The co-operation with American colleagues was very free and there were frequent articles by O'Dwyer, Solis Cohen, Fletcher Ingals, Nolan Mackenzie and many others' (Ormerod, 1952).

The fourth volume contained a colour plate (of haemorrhagic glossitis, by Holger Mygind), and the seventh contained more illustrations and some drawings of microscopical sections; but essentially the format remained unchanged.

In 1899, twelve years after its formation, the American publisher's name had disappeared; presumably, by that time, the earliest American journals (The *Laryngoscope* and the *Annals of Otology, Rhinology and Laryngology*) were themselves firmly established. In that year, more original articles were published but there were still many proceedings and abstracts.

The first volume of the present century opened with a series of 'Retrospects', each consisting of a resumé of all the published work in otology, rhinology and laryngology during the previous twelve months; and this series of resumés, written by senior members of the specialty, continued each year for many years.

When the *Journal* moved to Edinburgh in 1921, Douglas Guthrie, a notable medical historian, took charge of an abstracting service, and my first personal association with the *Journal*, between January 1950 and December 1951, was in abstracting articles from the *Laryngoscope* and the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*.

This abstracting service was discontinued at the end of 1951, and the contents now consist of Main Articles (including selected papers read at meetings) and Clinical Records.

Distribution

In the second volume of the *Journal*, there was an 'Editor's Notice' in which the editors expressed their pleasure at the manner in which the new venture had been received by the medical profession, but no figure was given of the number published.

However, in his Presidential Address to the Section of Laryngology at the Royal Society of Medicine on 5 November 1965, Sir Geoffrey Bateman gave some interesting figures.

The *Journal* is published monthly, and 'in 1932 the distribution was 711 copies per month. In 1939 it was 769: a modest increase of 58 copies over seven years, which, of course, included the six Second World War years. In 1964 the monthly distribution was 1878, an increase of 856 in fourteen years. Between 1932 and 1965 the total distribution (had) gone up from 711 to 1,878, an increase of 1,167, or about 150 per cent' (Bateman, 1965).

During this same period, the home distribution had risen from 400 to 517, an increase of 25 per cent; but a far more remarkable figure is the growth in distribution overseas, from 311 to 1,361, more than a four-fold increase over 33 years.

Over the next ten years, there was a slow but steady increase until 1974, when the distribution exceeded 2,400 for the first time; and over the following ten years, until 1984, with minor fluctuations (which included a peak year in 1978 when the circulation was only two short of 2,500), the figures changed little, with a figure of 2,402 in 1984.

The distribution in that year was as follows:

U.S.A.	575
British Isles	486
Japan	185
India and Pakistan	148
Low Countries	120
Australia and New Zealand	113
Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Greece	105
Middle East	100
Scandinavia	83
Italy	62
Canada	59
Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong	57
Spain and Mediterranean Islands	54
South Africa, Kenya	51
China, Russia, Korea	47
North Africa	40
East Europe	37

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France	30
Central and South America	25
Mexico	15
Free and Exchange, Advertisers	10
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During a period when another specialist journal has appeared in the British Isles and several other journals in English have appeared, notably in the United States of America, this can be regarded as a considerable achievement.

Future

In 1965 Sir Geoffrey Bateman said: 'I regard the *Journal of Laryngology and Otology* as the specialist journal of British Otolaryngology', but he also pointed out that it was read in most parts of the world; and he added: 'An interesting fact is that the *Journal* is being pirated and printed, in complete disregard of the copyright, by the North Koreans'.

Even in the first volume, there were no fewer than 15 overseas colleagues co-operating with the editors, including one from Baltimore, one from Montreal, one from Sydney, and eight from various European cities: Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Hamburg, Naples, Paris, Seville and Warsaw; and there was an American edition of the *Journal* for more than a decade.

As with our subscribers, so with our contributors they represent a broad spread of nations; and although the British Isles remain the largest single source of articles, even more papers are submitted from other countries. For example, of the 219 papers published by the *Journal* in 1985, 97 came from the British Isles; but no fewer than 122 emanated from 28 other countries, including 14 from Denmark, 13 each from Israel and Italy, 11 from India and seven each from Japan, South Africa and the United States.

Some of the contributions which we accept have been criticized but I believe that a journal with such a wide readership should reflect some of the differences and difficulties encountered in countries less fortunate than our own.

Sir Geoffrey Bateman made the same point when he said: 'You may wonder why some contributions which contribute nothing to science or to your ability to treat patients are published. The reason is that the *Journal* not only promotes your knowledge but records the development of . . . ear, nose and throat surgery in the world . . . The value of a contribution must be assessed against the background of the centre from which it has emerged. The publication of these articles . . . educates us and makes us more sympathetic to the specialists working under very difficult conditions'.

No-one who has not been privileged to visit some of the less well developed countries can have any conception of how difficult these conditions can be, and as Sir Geoffrey has said, 'The *Journal* tries to open a window to . . . its readers (to) the background of life in these countries'.

During my ten years as editor, I have striven to emulate Sir Geoffrey's vision of the *Journal of Laryngology and Otology* as an international organ of Otolaryngology; and as a convinced internationalist, I fervently hope that it will remain that way.

Acknowledgements

In preparing this brief history of the *Journal*, I have drawn freely on the well researched 'History' by the late Professor F. C. Ormerod, with whom I was honoured to work in the early 1950's; and I owe a special debt of gratitude to Sir Geoffrey Bateman, who not only gave me access to his unpublished address on 'Editing the Journal of Laryngology and Otology', but also for several years gave liberally of his time, advice and confidence during my transition from Assistant Editor to Editor.

I am grateful also to Mr R. N. Thomson, Executive Director of the Royal Society of Medicine, who gave me permission to reproduce the portrait of Sir Morell Mackenzie which hangs in the Society's House; and to Catherine Milton, who kindly provided the photograph of Norris Wolfenden.

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Finally, I wish to record my indebtedness to the staff of the Publishers, Headley Brothers Ltd., and particularly to Mr. R. G. (Bob) Milbery, Mr. David Pitt and Ms. Thelma Aspland for their unfailing courtesy and efficiency over a very happy period of fifteen years.

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