

Editorial Views

Evolution of an Anniversary Issue

WHEN the decision was made to commemorate the twenty-fifth year of publication of the JOURNAL it was our aspiration to strike an appropriate balance between the purely felicitous article written on such occasions and the high grade scientific communication that the reader may have come to expect of us. The annual symposium seemed ideally suited to this purpose. But what should be the theme if we were to follow a tradition established by previous symposia? Several years ago the editor was impressed by certain remarks of W. W. Mushin wherein he suggested that it is the anesthesiologist's environment that accounts for differences in scientific findings, anesthetic practice and teaching methods. That this opinion is shared independently by many a practitioner is evidenced by other writings, and most strikingly by the results of a survey of the specialty recently concluded by the American Society of Anesthesiologists. Not without dissenting vote, "The Environment of Anesthesia" became the projected theme of the anniversary issue. The topics selected, ranging from Life Among The Early Anesthetists to Hazards

of Radiation, all having bearing on the main question and they have been most ably treated by the contributors.

This silver coated issue should be regarded as a modest token of celebration, for the JOURNAL is by no means the eldest periodical on anesthesia and a far cry from *The New England Journal of Medicine* which in 1962 passed the sesquicentennial of continuous publication. Furthermore, the discerning subscriber will detect a semantic discrepancy in designation of the present number as the twenty-fifth anniversary issue. Dr. Cullen writes in the history of the founding of the JOURNAL that although plans were for some time in the making the first issue actually appeared in July 1940. But there has always been inconsistency in the numbering of birthdays, and an inquisitive child sometimes asks why after the passage of ten years, for example, he is not indeed celebrating his eleventh birthday. The editorial board and our publisher, therefore, have solved the dilemma, at least in our own minds, by inaugurating in grand style the twenty-fifth year of publication with this special issue.

L. D. V.