

Editorial Announcement

For a number of years the trustees of the American Medical Association have purposed the establishment of an ARCHIVES OF SURGERY similar in character and scope to the *Archives of Internal Medicine*, the *American Journal of Diseases of Children*, the *Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry*, and other comparable publications. Delays of various kinds have arisen, among others those resulting from the war, which have prevented the fulfilment of this purpose. The fact, too, that there were already in this country two great journals of surgery, the *Annals of Surgery*, and *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*, has made this delay of less consequence.

The Journal of the American Medical Association has the largest circulation of any medical journal in the world, and represents the activities of the American medical profession. *The Journal*, therefore, must carry contributions which will cover all the different fields of medicine. Contributions to its surgical section are so numerous as to make it difficult to publish them all in *The Journal*, especially since many of these contributions are too technical to be of interest to the entire profession.

The Trustees in establishing the ARCHIVES OF SURGERY have wisely determined that it shall not enter into competition with the journals of surgery now in existence. They believe that it should, besides lessening the burden of *The Journal's* publication, establish a sphere of its own. They believe, and again rightly, that another journal of clinical surgery is not warranted, and the task of the editor, Dr. Dean Lewis, and of the editorial board is to develop an organ which will in no way interfere with the justly earned successes of the existing publications, and yet establish a journal which will be creditable to the great organization that it represents, and sufficiently useful to the profession to warrant its entering the field.

In the growing period of surgery, it was not possible to train surgeons in the true sense. Only a few men had the opportunity to work as assistants to experienced surgeons. This is no longer the case. In the future, the surgeon will serve an apprenticeship; and three-year courses of instruction in which such training can be given are now being offered for those graduates in medicine who have served their hospital internship. It is the hope of the editorial board that the ARCHIVES OF SURGERY may be one of the organs of expression in this growing field of surgical education, and that it may furnish an opportunity for the publication of original articles pertaining to

research and investigation in those subjects which lay the foundation for sound surgical progress. American surgery has developed unevenly. Many competent observers are of the opinion that clinical and operative surgery and surgical technic have advanced faster than the growth of knowledge with regard to the fundamental but less attractive branches would warrant. It may be said that the philosophy of surgery has lagged, and operations based on unsupported opinions as to their wisdom or their necessity are too frequently advocated.

The ARCHIVES OF SURGERY will attempt at least to enlarge the surgical horizon and assist in establishing surgery on a sounder basis. Unpleasant as it may be, the editors will not hesitate to comment editorially on the papers published in its columns in order that both sides of a moot question may be considered. The reader will be given an opportunity to peruse surgical fads and fancies if such be presented, but if the subject matter introduces questionable material it will not be allowed to go unchallenged.

I wish, at this time, to express my indebtedness to the *Annals of Surgery* and to *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*, and especially to their distinguished editors. The scientific pages of the *Annals* have ever been to me a source of surgical wisdom and inspiration. *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*, combined with its abstract department, is one of the most extraordinary achievements in the history of surgery. Its editor, by his vision, knowledge and courage, has placed the surgical profession in his debt.

WILLIAM J. MAYO.