Editorial

With this number THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF CANCER ceases publication. The loss of many European subscriptions because of the war, together with the reduction in income resulting from the expiration of important patents held by the Chemical Foundation, has made it impossible to meet the deficit on the JOURNAL.

It was the wish of the late Mr. Francis P. Garvan, when he started THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF CANCER some ten years ago, that it should be published in the best possible style, without cost to contributors for illustrations or tables, that it should cover all phases of the cancer problem—research, clinical investigation, statistics, and therapy by whatever method—and that the pertinent literature in all these fields should be abstracted. As Mr. Garvan well understood, such a journal is necessarily published at a financial loss, for its circulation is limited, and, especially so far as the clinical aspects are concerned, it must compete with already existing surgical and radiological journals. In addition, the research worker has, generally speaking, a salary which does not enable him to subscribe to scientific journals, nor should he be expected to pay for the cost of printing his observations. Yet illustrations and expensive tables and charts are often essential for the proper presentation of a highly scientific paper. It was Mr. Garvan's desire to compensate the research worker for the effects of the attitude of some outstanding men in the field of cancer who have deprecated abstract research on biological material—which really is the only means by which the fundamental problems of oncology can ever be solved—and have stated that in the present status of our knowledge such research is futile; that it is far better to make clinical observations on patients for the purpose of improving current methods of diagnosis and therapy. This, of course, is an unanswerable argument, for no one who is working on the intricacies of the cancer problem today can offer any assurance that the information which he is slowly and painfully accumulating will ever lead to the cure of the disease. But such an attitude scarcely helps in obtaining subscriptions to a research journal. It is as destructive as it has proved to be to cancer research.

For this and other reasons publication of the JOURNAL must cease, even though Mr. Francis P. Garvan, Jr., now president of the Chemical Foundation, regrets this necessity quite as much as his father would have done. The
late Mr. Garvan's continuous interest in the Journal, together with the financial judgment of the late Mr. William W. Buffum, treasurer of the Chemical Foundation, were of the greatest assistance in guiding the policy of the Journal.

My thanks are due, also, to the members of my Editorial Staff for their help in solving many problems, and to the Abstractors, who I hope have benefited not only in increased knowledge but in the improvement of their English diction which comes with doing work of this type. Anyone who has had to condense a long, rambling article into a few hundred words is not likely to commit the editorial crime of verbosity. To Miss Marion B. Crowell, as Assistant Editor, the readers of the Journal owe a debt of gratitude for, in addition to her general editorial work and abstracting, she was in many instances responsible for the cross-references in the abstract section, which have so greatly increased its value to those in search of bibliographic material. After an initial period of faith in the accuracy of the medical profession, she settled down to the belief that no bibliographic reference is correct until verified. The thousands of errors which she has caught in manuscripts would have cost readers of the Journal many weary hours of trying to locate a particular article for which the year or volume number was incorrect, or the author's name was misspelled or even incorrectly given.

The typographical beauty of the Journal is due entirely to the skill and admirable press work of The Lancaster Press, who seemed to be able to take an old fogged photomicrograph and bring out details which were scarcely visible except by the most minute examination.

My thanks, then, to all these my collaborators for their ten years of faithful labor on The American Journal of Cancer.

The foundations interested in cancer research have arranged to carry on, and will publish research papers and abstracts. Those who have for ten years endeavored to make The American Journal of Cancer what Mr. Garvan wished it to be can only repeat, like so many who are now struggling to support the cause of freedom, the words of that ancient phrase, morituri te salutamus, and welcome the new journal, Cancer Research, which takes up the work at which the staff of this Journal has labored for so many years.

Of concern to many of the readers of this Journal is the fact that the papers presented at the Third International Cancer Congress, held in September 1939, had been sent to the Editor of the Acta of the International Union Against Cancer, Professor J. Maisin, at the University of Louvain, Belgium, and were in his care at the time of the invasion of Belgium. Pending further information, it would seem wise for those who presented papers at the Congress to make arrangements for their publication as soon as possible in current journals, as any additional delay may result in loss of priority for their work. If at a later date it is found that the manuscripts have escaped serious damage, it may then be possible to undertake the publication of the Congress papers in a special volume of the Acta as was originally planned.

Francis Carter Wood