A Centenary 1893–1993

K.

Holubar

Institut für Geschichte der Medizin and Department of Dermatology, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Karl Holubar, Institut für Geschichte der Medizin, Währinger Strasse 25, A-1090 Vienna (Austria)

Dermatologische Zeitschrift.

Prof. Dr. O. LASSAR.

Band I. 1893/94.

D er matologica

Dermatologischen Zeitschrift

Journal international de Dermatologie International Journal of Dermatology

S.İŞK.

■r.V'''-

Λ LITTLE.¼dm L.TÜHÖK i.,.:

Bçrlin Þ%fi VERL·AG VON ¼ KARGBR

i. SULZBEKGER. N.. ‘

Dermatology

l.klor: W. IXİZ·Basel J &t; IIIJK

S.¾K.

BASKL (SCHWEIZ) S. K A R G E R NEW YORK

■ .,■ ■ ■■■.:■; Cutaneous Mali with Other Cα»i

Γindam Scanning Microscope

Aiβlaic Acid Hai Aπtimy cotic Properties 55

Epidermotyçisbuílosa

Comp·riiOΠOÍthePathologYof Faiciiin 18 Mi.l’ .;nri. J.V: Burr &t; ¼s. N.P.;

Jones.B;R.;Eo»mophHie Mya¼sia Syndrome Patients : (‘-

ilicFaiciifu Primary Infection by Human Parvovii

Severity Scoring of Atopic De £u &t; opβan TaaK Force on Alopic Di

Pustuioſjj due to Dotycyclirte

iiitíve Response to 5HT-2 Antagoniit» • Family Affected by Epldermoly»ii illota Dαwibig-

Meara Type

Soluble CD14 Monocyte Antigen in Suction βliiter Fluid and Serum of

i’¼,ttuiLtri v.íith Pioŵ«« Schûpf.R.E.¼Dobr[]eycr. J.: Díŵm·.’ &t; cr. ii

KARGER

© 1993 S. Karger AG, Basel 1018-8665/93/1861-0001

\$2.75/0

‘Habent sua fata libelli’ wrote Terentianus Maurus [1] already more than 1,500 years ago, ‘pro captu lectoris’, in the eyes of the reader. Also periodicals do have their history, and Dermatology has just completed its first century, joining the club of centenary dermato-logical journals and bringing the number to six: the *Giornale Italiano di Dermatologia e Sifilografia* of 1866, the *Annales de Dermatologie et de Vénéréologie* of 1869, the *Archiv für Dermatologie und Syphilis* (Archives of Dermatological Research of today) of the same year, the *Monatshefte für praktische Dermatologie* (Paul Gerson Unna’s) of 1882 (lately the *Dermatologische Monatsschrift*) and the *British Journal of Dermatology* of 1888.’

Founded in Berlin for the *Berliner Dermatologische Gesellschaft* and published by the House of Karger, the newly established journal reflected the growing importance of this city in the discipline. Second to Breslau in its early years, Berlin developed into the major center of dermatology towards the end of the century, slowly outflanking its old rival Vienna. The foundation of a journal of its own may be perceived as the manifestation of the growing pride of the Berlin School. Oskar Lassar (1849-1907), the founding editor (1893-1907), elaborated in his editorial to the first issue of the *Dermatologische Zeitschrift* on the importance of dermatology for clinical propaedeutics in general, and the Journal was unquestionably planned to be a clinical one from the beginning [2].

Browsing over the pages written by Erich Hoffmann, the then editor

With regard to the early American dermatological journals, see Parish LC, *Arch Dermatol* 1967;96:77-88.

(1908-1938), on the occasions of the publication of the 25th [3] and 50th [4] volumes in 1918 and 1927, the ups and downs of contemporary dermatology are referred to. (After 1920, there were two volumes per year.)

What Could Be Read in Its Pages
in the Early Decades?

Medical celebrities like Virchow [5] had their say in the history of syphilis; P.G. Unna on dermatopathology [6] or Lassar [7] and Karl Dehio [8] on leprosy. Quite a bit of societal history can be gleaned, e.g. the report in 1898 [9] on the founding of the Dutch Dermatological Society in 1896, or the first session of the Danish Dermatological Society in 1899 (founded the year before) [10]. When the century turned, eight national dermatological societies existed, and the Japanese followed suit in December 1900. Under Erich Hoffmann’s tenure as editor, we find the interesting reports of Oscar Gans [11] and A. Memmesheimer [12] on their experiences in the USA, also Habermann’s [13] supplementary paper to Viktor Mucha’s report of 1916, presenting an acute variant of parapsoriasis and making the eponym Mucha-Habermann justified. In 1931, Gustav Hopf [14] described Akrodermatitis verruciformis, eponymously referred to by using the author’s name. In 1937, we see the obituary of Joseph Jadassohn (1863-1936) [15], leader of German dermatology, whose legacy had been threatened to be extinguished by the then official policy. He had been hailed only 4 years before on the occasion of his 70th birthday [16].

The political changes in Germany made the Karger publishers – founded in Berlin on April 1, 1890 [17], and active in this city ever since – move to Switzerland and set up shop in Basel.

Upon the retirement

of Erich Hoffmann, Wilhelm Lutz became the third editor, and the Journal was renamed *Dermatologica*, now a Swiss journal accepting papers in German, French, Italian and English.

Commemorative editorials appeared in 1950 [18] on the occasion of the 100th volume and in 1975 [19] in volume 150. The former still carried a trilingual text, while the latter was in English only. After the demise of Wilhelm Lutz, Rudolf Schuppli of Basel served as editor from 1958 and carried the Journal through the difficult years when the European readers and authors had to become aware that English was the lingua franca of medicine, and manuscripts should better be drafted in this language. More editorials and review papers were solicited and intended to serve the reader by facilitating the understanding of the rapid progress of dermatology and its ever-stronger relation to the basic sciences. *Dermatologica* served as the official organ of the Swiss and Dutch societies of Dermatology (recently, the Dutch switched over to the British journal, the Belgians filling their place in the Journal's pages).

When Jean-Hilaire Saurat took over in 1986 [20], this was the dawn of a new era. Saurat, born in 1943, is a representative of the younger generation of international dermatologists, laboratory investigator as much as clinician and pupil of the Paris School. For the first time in almost 100 years, the native language of the chief editor is not German; moreover, also for the first time, the native language of the chief editor is not any more the language of the Journal. Nothing could serve better to underscore how much circumstances have changed. The editorial board is truly international, including a coeditor from Japan, reflecting this country's growing strength in investigative and

2

Holubar

Editorial

clinical dermatology worldwide. The structure of the Journal was changed into different sections: editorials, clinical and laboratory investigations, pharmacology and treatment, short communications, case reports and correspondence; changes which have largely been stuck to since.

When we look at the readership and the authors who published in the Journal a century ago, we find predominantly German authors, Scandinavians and Russians; investigators of close geographical proximity. Initiated probably by the shift of the editorial office from Berlin to Basel, by the adoption of the English language for publication and also by the constant growth of an international community of dermatologists, Dermatology today is a periodical with a worldwide readership, also in the so-called Third World. It has a reputation of being a forum not just for a nation, however big or small it maybe.

By sheer circulation numbers, *Dermatologica*, renamed *Dermatology* in 1992 to reflect the predomi-

nance of the English language, cannot compare with American journals. It nevertheless does present clinical or experimental gems to its readers time and again, and its volumes may be found on many a university's shelves all over the world. Thanks to this distribution and its truly international reputation, the Journal's scope and esteem outweighs its physical strength. As a second valuable asset, we may mention the publisher: for a full hundred years, four successive generations of Kargers and their expert staff have served the medical community by providing a first-class quality journal to the readers; a journal very dear also to themselves because it was the first of the many Karger journals of today that has been launched.

What Are the Prospects for the
Second Century?

Electronical data gathering, processing and transmission will rapidly increase; no doubt about that. Science has recently introduced an electronic journal. The New England Journal of Medicine has devoted an editorial to that matter [21]. The speed and quantity of data available by such means definitely will serve as a stimulant for the employment of electronic media. However, dealing with questions of authorship, copyright, interpretation of data along with other issues will be a formidable problem to tackle with in such efforts. The availability of peer-reviewed papers in a printed fashion on high quality paper (or other matrix) should nevertheless remain the first choice for the medical reader for some time to come. Jerome P. Kassirer in her editorial [21] concludes 'greater convenience is not a sufficient justification for threatening the quality of our research enterprise'.

Along these lines, we may hope that Dermatology and Karger, the editorial board and publisher, will continue to serve the international dermatological community throughout the next century – reliably and conscientiously as they have done during the last.

Ad multos annos!

Dehio K: Der Aussatz einst und jetzt. *Dermatol Z* 1896;3:17-44.

Erster Jahresbericht des Vereins niederländischer Dermatologen. *Dermatol Z* 1898;5: 277-278.

Dänische dermatologische Gesellschaft in Kopenhagen. I. Sitzung vom 4. Januar 1899. *Dermatol Z* 1899;6:233-238.

Memmesheimer A: Eindrücke von einem sechsmonatigen Aufenthalt in Nordamerika. *Dermatol Z* 1926;48:189-191.

Gans O: Die Dermatologie in den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika. *Dermatol Z* 1928;52: 369-393.

Habermann R: Über die akut verlaufende, nekrotisierende Unterart der Pityriasis lichenoides (Pityriasis lichenoides et varioliformis acuta). *Dermatol Z* 1925;45:42-48.

References

Terentianus Maurus: De syllabis grammatici latini; Keil H (Hrsg). Leipzig, Teubner, 1874, Band 6, Vers 1286.

Lassar O: Ueber den Stand und die Ziele der Dermatologie. *Dermatol Z* 1893/94; 1:3-11.

Hoffmann E: Geleitwort zum 25. Bande der Dermatologischen Zeitschrift: Ein Rückblick und Ausblick auf die Entwicklung der Dermatologie. 1918;2:1-14.

Hoffmann E: Geleitwort zum 50. Bande: Rückblick und Ausblick. 1927;50:1-7.

Virchow R: Beitrag zur Geschichte der Lues. *Dermatol Z* 1896;3:1-9.

Unna PG: Zur Kenntnis der hyalinen Degeneration der Carcinomepithelien. *Dermatol Z* 1893/94;1:28-36.

Lassar O: Ueber die Lepra. *Dermatol Z* 1896;3:44-52.

14 Hopf G: Über eine bisher nicht beschriebene disseminierte Keratose (Akrokeratosis verruciformis). *Dermatol Z* 1931;60:227-250.

: 15 Gay Prieto J: Joseph Jadassohn. *Dermatol Z* 1937;74:118-119.

i 16 Hoffmann E: Joseph Jadassohn zum 70. Geburtstag. *Dermatol Z* 1933;67:316-317.

17 Schmecker HM Jr: Karger – Turning Medical Progress into Print (1890-1990). Basel. Karger, p. 13.

18 Lutz W: Zum 100. Bande der Dermatologica.i Dermatologica 1950;100:1.: 19
Preface to the 150th volume of Dermatologica.
Dermatologica 1975;150:1. 20 SauratJH: A new style for an old journal. Dermatologica
1986;172:1. s 21 Kassirer JP: Journals in bits and bytes. New Engl J Med 1992;326:195-197.
3