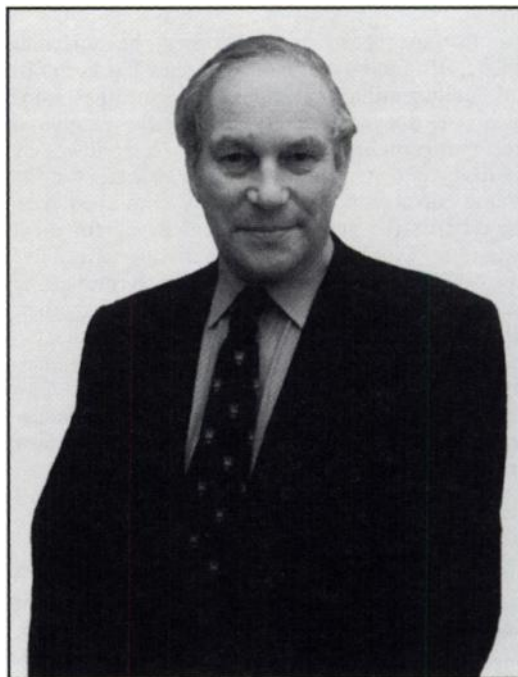


## Hugh Freeman, Editor, 1983–93 Tribute on the Occasion of his Retirement

Since the formation of the Royal College of Psychiatrists 22 years ago, there have been four editors of the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, each of whom has made a distinctive and enduring contribution. Eliot Slater raised scientific standards and introduced specialist assessment of papers. Edward Hare transformed the finances of the *Journal* so that they made a major contribution to College income, and John Crammer demanded clarity, accuracy and precision in what was published. The characteristics of Hugh Freeman's ten-year editorship have been diversification and fresh initiatives.

During Hugh Freeman's editorial tenure, the number of papers submitted to the *Journal* has climbed to almost 1000 annually, the number of pages of the *Journal* has increased by over a quarter, the size of the Editorial Board has increased from 15 to 22 members, and there has been continued expansion of the Board of Assessors, which now includes specialist statistical assessors. His innovations have included a regular book programme of wide diversity (most recently the *College Seminars Series* for trainees), the Brief Reports section, the publication of supplements, the *BJP Review of Books*, the exchange of contents pages with other journals, the appointment of Corresponding Editors to broaden the *Journal's* international perspective, and the appointment of two trainee editors in 1992 to gain experience working on the *Journal*. A subcommittee, responsible for general policy and financial activities of the *Journal*, was also set up in the past decade, and has played a central part in ensuring its continued profitability.

The demands on the Editor have, therefore, been considerable and have been met by Hugh Freeman with formidable energy, imaginative drive, and determination. He also continued his clinical and academic responsibilities in Salford, Greater Manchester, until his retirement from the National Health Service five years ago. He has remained highly productive over the past ten years, having published 30 papers, written 13 chapters and edited 12 books, as well as writing a large number of reviews for the scientific and lay press, many of which reflect the breadth of his scholarship and interest in literary, biographical and historical matters. He has also travelled widely, to speak at



and chair meetings, attendances which have often led to further publishing initiatives.

The scientific quality and integrity of the *Journal* and concern for sound book-keeping and scrupulous literary quality, established by his predecessors, have been further advanced during Hugh Freeman's period of office. He has encouraged social and community psychiatry matters to become more prominent in the contents of the *Journal*, while maintaining its international scientific and biological tradition, but with a special awareness of the needs of the practising clinical psychiatrist. He has always been receptive to fresh ideas, consistently supportive to editorial colleagues, and been a staunch fighter for the *Journal* and *Psychiatric Bulletin* in College committees. On the international stage, he has been a fine ambassador, and warmest good wishes are extended to him for the future.

*Alan Kerr*  
Senior Associate Editor