On the occasion of our 50th birthday

Fundamental changes are taking place in medicine, in the scientific investigation and understanding of health and disease, in the approach to medical education and to the system of medical practice.

In all these there may be revolutionary developments just around the corner.

New ideas about communication and the growing problem of publishing, storing and recalling contributions to medical knowledge and thought may be about to dictate radical changes in medical journalism.

These shall have to face frankly and realistically.

Nevertheless, we shall not readily or happily, if ever, cease to be that rather peculiar emissary of medicine, a general medical journal.

If not just (and the adverb has no derogatory overtones) a general practitioner’s journal, but we think that our role should be that of the general practitioner in its relation to keeping medicine human.

The more scientific medicine becomes, the better it should please us, but the more we should be careful. Medicine is, ultimately, concerned with the care of people by people.

We shall be heading for destruction if we ever forget that both doctors and patients are human.

Dr Ronald Winton, Editor (pictured)
4 July 1964 (edited extract)