doi:10.1136/jramc-2016-000621

Johno Breeze and Jeff Garner

This first edition of 2016, and the first of publishing six editions per year, is a *pot pourri* of topics. For the coming year editorial duties will be shared between the two of us, as an prolonged handover and so those of you emailing the journal will receive replies from either of us—the editor.jramc@gmail.com address is still fully functional.

Throughout the coming year we will be aiming to theme the editions, starting with one dedicated to the efforts of the DMS in Sierra Leone dealing with the Ebola Virus outbreak with further plans for editions focussing on traumatic brain injury and medicine in austere and altitude environments.

The first two articles in this edition present insights into differing but equally important modern dilemmas:

CAREER OR FAMILY PLANNING?

The editorial by Morris and Withnall discusses the current vogue of some large companies to offer oocyte preservation to their female employees in order to delay

them raising their families; the legal, ethical and practical issues involved are discussed.

THE RESURGENCE OF WHOLE BLOOD

Davies presents a clear review of the issues involved in battlefield resuscitation with blood, the history and contemporary practice and presents cogent arguments for the advancement of whole blood as the resuscitation fluid of choice.

MODERN ORTHOPAEDICS

This article gives a fascinating overview of the birth of modern orthopaedics and outlines the many techniques that current military surgeons take for granted; it also describes the birth of rehabilitation which has become one of the highlights of the Defence Medical Service's repertoire of skills.

OVERSEAS CONTRIBUTIONS

Mutafchiyski *et al* present an extensive series of open abdomens from diffuse peritonitis which is the situation commonly encountered in UK civilian practice rather than from the trauma that deployed surgeons have become familiar with. The techniques are well described and illustrated and their outcomes are supportive

of the use of negative pressure wound therapy in combination with mesh mediated fascial traction. The article on dietary factors demonstrates clearly a marked increase in obesity amongst Belgian soldiers over the study period

MEDICINE NOT TRAUMA

Contrary to the popular belief that Camp Bastion was a trauma hospital and nothing else these two articles by Cox and colleagues in the internal medicine cadre show the breadth of medical work performed in that hospital; it also demonstrates the effectiveness of the military occupational health strategies

... AND FINALLY

The vignette from Diamantis and Magiorkinis presents a fascinating insight into the early days of a medical speciality and the little known contribution of Marie Curie to a war effort.

Competing interests None declared.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; internally peer reviewed.

To cite Breeze J, Garner J. *J R Army Med Corps* 2016;**162**:2.

J R Army Med Corps 2016;**162**:2.
doi:10.1136/jramc-2016-000621

Correspondence to Maj Johno Breeze, Editorial Office J R Army Med Corps, FASC, Slim Road Camberley GU15 4NP, UK; editor.jramc@bmjgroup.com