

THE MONTHLY BULLETIN TODAY

General

The suspicion gradually dawns that the Monthly Bulletin never has had a clear sense of editorial purpose. Did the Department in the immediate postwar years, enjoying as it did greatly enhanced responsibility and prestige, not merely take unto itself one of the appurtenances of maturity -- a monthly publication -- more or less as designed in the United Kingdom and still prevalent in many parts of the Commonwealth?

If true, the diagnosis explains much. Regardless of the publisher's identity any periodical which begins without a clearly defined and articulated philosophy and mission is unlikely to acquire them during the subsequent mechanics of issue to issue production. And without them it is unlikely to be readable.

In any event the situation today is clear. Each year the Department expends slightly more than \$20,000 in money and more than two man-years in labor to consummate each month a union of empty space with uninteresting words.

To dwell on this at length would be unproductive. A few general observations will suffice: