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The Nutrition Society has as its object the advancement of the scientific study of nutrition and its application to the maintenance of human and animal health.

Membership is open to any whose work has contributed to the scientific knowledge of nutrition, whether such work has been in the laboratory, the field or the clinic, and whether experimental, clinical, agricultural or statistical in nature.

Particulars of The Nutrition Society and application forms for membership may be had from the Honorary Secretary, Dr G. L. S. Pawan, Metabolic Division, Department of Medicine, The Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London W1P 7PN.

The *Proceedings of The Nutrition Society*, published by the Cambridge University Press, in part record meetings of the Symposium type, at which experts in a particular field are invited by Council to make contributions on specific parts of it and at which general discussion follows these invited contributions. The contributions will be published *in extenso*; such summaries of the ensuing discussions as circumstances warrant may also be published. The Society also holds scientific meetings at which papers are communicated by members and others on original work carried out by them. It is proposed at present to publish summaries of the papers read at each meeting, each communication being recorded in the Society's *Proceedings* by means of an abstract not exceeding in length 400 words or the equivalent space in print. The *Proceedings* are published three times a year.

The *British Journal of Nutrition* is published once every two months by the Cambridge University Press for The Nutrition Society, which owns it and controls its publication. It is devoted to reports of original work in all branches of nutrition, the term 'original work' not implying that the papers must invariably be based on new facts. *The British Journal of Nutrition* does not print reviews of the literature or polemical articles, but the Editorial Board is willing to consider original articles critically re-examining published information and the conclusions drawn from it. A volume consists of three parts and two volumes appear each year.

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ETHICS IN HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION

The European Association of Editors of Biological Periodicals (ELSE) recently established a Working Group to consider editorial responsibility for the maintenance of high ethical standards in research. The Editorial Board of the *British Journal of Nutrition* was represented at the Working Group's first meeting and the following Report was produced.

1. It was affirmed that editors have a duty to ensure that their journals contribute to the maintenance of high ethical standards in research and treatment in man.
2. It is recommended that editors should use all available means to bring to the notice of those involved in editing and reviewing papers the importance of ethical aspects and should ask reviewers for their opinion as to whether the experiment has been performed in an ethical manner.
3. It is recommended that correspondence concerned with ethical aspects of a paper should be published in the journal in which the paper appeared and that the author of the paper should be granted the right to reply which should be published simultaneously.
4. The Working Group discussed at length the purpose and inherent weakness of Codes of Ethics and reached the conclusion that such Codes provided valuable guide-lines to authors, institutional committees, and editors alike, but that they could not be used to establish absolute criteria for ethical standards in human experimentation. Judgement on ethical matters in relation to publication must be left to the responsible editor in full possession of information in the particular case.
5. It is recommended that an editor of a journal should reject a paper if, in his opinion, it fails to reach ethical standards.
6. Correspondence between an editor and an author about the ethical aspects of a paper is as confidential as that concerning its scientific content. It was agreed, therefore, that the fact of the rejection of a paper on ethical grounds should not be communicated to a third party.
7. It is recommended that a notice referring to ethics should be included in 'Notes to Authors' published by journals in which papers on research in man appear. In this notice, editors may wish to draw attention to one or more Codes of Ethics at their own discretion. Authors should be required to include a discussion of the ethical aspects of their research in their covering letter and, when relevant, be advised to include a statement in the text of their paper.
8. The Working Group welcomed the establishment, in research institutions and hospitals, of committees concerned with ethical aspects of medical research. However, since not all ethical committees apply the same criteria for approval of research, it was agreed that the editor should rely on his own assessment and not depend solely on the judgement of such institutional committees.