

Editorial

When the die was cast some five years ago and landed at my feet, the then incoming editor of *Isis*, Ron Numbers, playfully asked whether *BJHS* would henceforward become a journal for articles on 'science and religion'. I think I replied (or certainly should have) by returning the question. Neither journal, as it happens, has devoted more than usual space to that topic during our respective terms of office. But as my own tenure comes to an end, I am happy to publish an issue in which consideration is given to the religious dimensions of seventeenth-century natural philosophy.

The greatest pleasure in a valedictory issue is, however, to announce the name of one's successor. In this case, it is a very special pleasure because the torch will pass to Dr Janet Browne, who will assume responsibility for the March 1994 issue and thereafter. The Society has been extremely fortunate to secure the services of one whose scholarship and editorial skills will be familiar to all who have encountered the Darwin *Correspondence* project. I am personally delighted that the journal will be in such excellent hands and I wish her every success and enjoyment in the months ahead.

During my time as editor, the production of the journal passed from Blackwell Scientific Publications to Cambridge University Press. It is appropriate that I should record the fine support I have enjoyed from both. Latterly I have been particularly indebted to Sheila Champney of CUP, whose meticulous care over matters of presentation has been an enormous strength. To Trevor Burling, and his staff in the journals department at CUP, the Society has reason to be exceedingly grateful for the very highest level of professional support.

Finally, I should like to thank all the members of the editorial board, whose wisdom has been invaluable on many occasions. For help with the preparation of this issue, particular thanks are due to Michael Hunter. And if I single out John Henry for special mention, it is because the task of book reviews editor is a heroic one, on which the success of a journal critically depends.