

VOLUME 101 NUMBER 2 OCTOBER 1988

Epidemiology and Infection

(Formerly the Journal of Hygiene)

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Epidemiology and Infection (ISSN 0950-2688) is published annually in two volumes of three parts in February, April, June, August, October and December.

The subscription price of volumes 100 and 101, 1988, is £50 net (USA and Canada US \$108) per volume (post free); single parts are available at £20 net (USA and Canada US \$45) plus postage. Back volumes are also available. Orders, which must be accompanied by payment, may be sent to any bookseller or subscription agent or to the publisher: Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU, or in the USA and Canada to Cambridge University Press, 32 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022. Second class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: send address changes in USA and Canada to *Epidemiology and Infection*. Cambridge University Press, 510 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10801.

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CHANGE OF STYLE

One of the problems of publishing the results of experimental work is related to the considerable differences between journals in their manuscript requirements. This is particularly true of the form in which references appear in the text and reference lists, and currently there is no computer program available which converts one form into another. *Epidemiology and Infection* has always been proud of its individual style, but also recognizes the desirability of uniformity from an author's point of view. At a meeting in Vancouver in 1978 a number of journal editors developed a set of uniform requirements for manuscripts and, subsequently, the Vancouver style has been adopted by many. It is popular with both authors and those editors who have experience of using it. Also it seems logical as electronic publishing and data retrieval becomes more widespread to have a numerically based system of references rather than one based on the infinite variations of names.

Accordingly, from the August issue of 1989 *Epidemiology and Infection* will adopt the Vancouver style. Modified and expanded Notes for Contributors appear at the back of this issue and these will be reproduced in each future issue. From now on manuscripts should be in the new style and, after a brief transition period, it is the hope of the editors that the change will benefit the contributors.

J. R. PATTISON
on behalf of the Editors