

Editorial

IN this, the first issue of a new volume with a new Editor, it would appear pertinent to re-appraise the purpose and policy of the Journal.

The Secretary of the Association, Dr. Rupert Coles, in his last quadrennial report (Vol. 26, 1970, p. 701), said that the main aim of the Association was the dissemination of knowledge; obviously in the light of the fact that World Congresses are held only quadrennially the Journal must play a major part in the Association's activities.

I would also re-state the policy of the Journal outlined in the Editor's report in the same issue, namely that the Journal does not accept original research reports unless they constitute a report given at a branch meeting or specifically requested by a branch Secretary. Apart from reports of Association and Branch business, abstracts of papers given at meetings of members, etc., the contents consist mainly of comprehensive reviews on subjects of importance to the poultry industry throughout the world, together with lists of references to recent publications pertaining to poultry research.

This being so, the Journal can be only as good as the quality of its contributions, and here the editor must rely heavily on his contacts within the poultry industry. Review articles, especially when unpaid (and the finances of the Journal do not permit of payment) are a labour of love, but those members with specialised knowledge have a duty to impart that knowledge to other members of the Association.

It has been pointed out that poultry production is the most efficient and economic means of providing high quality animal protein for human consumption. Protein short-fall on a world basis is one of the most important aspects of malnutrition and under-nourishment, and it has been estimated by FAO that in the under-developed and developing countries between 300 and 500 million people do not get enough food. The poultry industry, with its high development in technology, can do much to alleviate this suffering and the Association in turn, by its meetings and through the Journal, has a valuable part to play.

Those scientists and technologists who have helped to build up the industry in the developing countries have much to offer their colleagues in other parts of the world. Scientists in research institutes in the developed countries with easy access to the scientific literature also have a duty to impart this knowledge by way of review articles.

Dr. Coles, in the report previously referred to, drew attention to the

need for better co-operation from Branch Secretaries to ensure a greater flow of information between branches and members, and I would exhort Secretaries to send reports of meetings and other activities.

An appreciation of Dr. Jaap's services as editor appeared in the last issue and in associating myself with those comments I express the hope that I receive equally loyal support from my scientific colleagues and others to enable me to maintain the high standard he set.

There will be some minor organisational alterations in the production of the Journal:

1. Dr. Jaap had the valuable assistance of Professor Dr. Rose-Marie Wegner as Associate Editor, and it is regretted that her decision to relinquish this post, forced upon her by increased academic duties, has deprived me of her help. Our deep appreciation is due to her for her valuable services to the Journal.

2. Dr. Jaap also had the help of a Publications Committee which consisted of the Secretaries of all the WPSA branches. Valuable as this was, and the Association tenders sincere thanks to those concerned, the committee was too unwieldy to function efficiently. It has been decided therefore that a small group of Associate Editors be formed, each of whom will be responsible for the soliciting of review papers and the collection of branch news within a designated area or discipline. The names of those who have kindly accepted my invitation to serve in this capacity are printed on the title page.

3. In order to introduce and maintain a standard format for published articles, notes to contributors have been drawn up and will appear inside the cover of each issue. Every contribution *must* be accompanied by a summary or abstract in English, without which it is impossible to arrange for the provision of the usual resumés in French. Where the contributor is able to do so he should also provide resumés in other languages.

4. The view has been expressed, particularly in the Western hemisphere, that the inclusion of lists of recent publications is of limited value since research workers in that area already have access to the relevant journals in their own institutes or university departments. An alternative view is that 'Recent Publications' is of inestimable value to the countries with smaller branches who are handicapped by lack of access to current literature, and that this section of the Journal is of more importance than any other. It has therefore been decided to retain this section, restricting it where desirable to references of a more practical nature; certain changes in format have been dictated by the adoption of a somewhat different method of information retrieval. These changes are explained in the notes preceding the section and it is hoped that they will be acceptable to readers.

Finally, I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks for Dr. Jaap, Dr. Coles and Mr. May for the valuable help they have given me in taking over my new duties.—R. F. GORDON