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Retrenchment

SUBMISSIONS are down, JSR is being printed in England, and the year of the Synoptic has begun.

For the past calendar year submissions were down 30% relative to the previous year. This is perhaps an inverse quantitative measure of how much more effort is now going into proposal activity by industrial, university, and government research personnel. Even the Civil Service researcher finds more of his time is spent in justifying his programs. From all these groups, we have heard how much more time is now being spent writing proposals. This downturn in technical publication submissions was not evident a year ago. Of course, the reduced NASA budget must have a direct effect—NASA funds much of the research reported in this Journal.

You may notice that the January and February issues have 64 pages instead of the 96 that has been the standard for most issues in the past few years. This reduction is due in part to the reduced submissions, and in part to the extra lead time in shifting our printing to England as a cost reduction item to stay within a continually shrinking operating budget. To reduce staff costs further, the Associate Editors mail review requests directly to our reviewers, thereby saving two steps in the mailing and handling of manuscripts. In addition to the cost savings, the review cycle time is reduced, thus tending to offset the increased printing cycle time.

The year of the Synoptic trial was heralded by the September 1971 issue. We have budgeted for one in four papers to be a Synoptic for the fiscal year beginning in October 1971. All of us are aware of the difficulty a writer has in putting his thoughts on paper concisely and in summary form, but our authors have willingly shouldered the burden of

writing Synoptics when requested. We hope the readers will respond in kind and let us know their thoughts about Synoptics after having seen several. Especially, we would like to hear from anyone who has not as yet stated his position. We thank Dr. Benjamin Pinkel for his able assistance in reviewing our JSR Synoptics and for providing many helpful suggestions.

During the summer of 1971, the press of other responsibilities caused Harry Runyan to resign his post as Associate Editor. Also, at the end of his three-year term, we find Yusuf Yoler moving on in 1972. We thank them both most sincerely for the services they have rendered our Society. Associate Editors' tasks can be quite a burden at times; there is always more work to be done than one first imagines. However, the experience is broadening in that an Associate Editor is asked to review and edit papers that are in the fringes beyond his regular field, and most feel that it is an excellent experience.

We welcome Dr. Joseph V. Mullin whose interests include structures and materials.

Special thanks go to the professional staff of Ruth Bryans and Anne Huth who have borne the burden of providing data and studies for the many concepts being considered for efficiency, and for their forbearance in adapting to the new routines and procedures.

Finally, again we thank the many reviewers who furnish the background of knowledge against which we measure each submitted paper.

Ralph R. Ragan
Editor-in-Chief