

Greetings--

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The appearance of this first issue of the A.I.Ch.E. Journal marks an important milestone in the publication history of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. It has been evident for some time that the Institute needs two kinds of regular publications: one to meet the broad, general interests of chemical engineers by providing news, reviews, general articles, articles dealing with problems of management, economics, production, and the like, and the other to cover the more highly technical and theoretical phases of the profession. This dual treatment follows the pattern established by many other technical societies.

The new venture, however, was not undertaken without a good deal of debate and some misgiving about the future. Such a magazine is a gamble from a financial standpoint because it has to be offered to the membership below the actual cost of production. It is probable that the total return from subscriptions and advertising will always be less than cost, and this journal will have to be underwritten with other institute income.

Publication is probably the most important single activity of any engineering or scientific society from the standpoint both of service to its members and of its own prestige. This new journal has a great opportunity to promote both these ends, and I am confident that it will make the most of this opportunity.

I am happy to offer to the Editor and his staff my best wishes for success in this new venture. I have a particular pleasure in doing this since the Editor is a valued friend and close associate of many years. The Institute is fortunate in having the new journal under such competent guidance. In the final analysis the success of any publication depends to a large extent on the leadership provided by the editor.

As this new venture is launched, I am thinking of the analogy of a new ship gliding down the ways and I break a symbolic bottle of champagne on her bow as she leaves her berth and wish her "Bon Voyage."

B. F. DODGE

FROM THE SECRETARY

This is the second time I have been in on the beginning of a new publication for the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and an old lesson is being reaffirmed—enterprises such as this are always acts of faith. At times during the preliminary studies leading to publication, which were carried out by Thomas K. Sherwood as chairman of the Publications Committee and by George Holbrook, chairman

of the Committee on the Future of the Institute, it was often doubtful that the fiscal problems would allow us enough leeway. The plunge was taken, though, and like a swimmer diving into cold water, we are feeling the shock of our first immersion.

The doubt about beginning publications in this field is never, of course, a doubt of need or of quality. The chemical engineering profession requires many outlets for its theoretical and practical writings. The volume of valuable material which this magazine will ultimately attract would exceed the financial publishing ability of this society. By a process of selection, therefore, the Journal should become a leader in the field and a source of quality publications.

If this Journal is a success, it will be so because it serves a gaping need in the chemical field and thereby wins the financial support of the chemical engineers and the industries that employ them. The Council of the A.I.Ch.E. merits applause for its decision to publish. I know that the staff of the Institute will do their best to make this new vision a reality.

F. J. VAN ANTWERPEN

FROM THE EDITOR

With this first issue of the A.I.Ch.E. Journal, the Institute begins a new venture of some magnitude and of much potential merit. The growth of the membership and the diversity of interests of the members have made inevitable this expansion of the publishing program. We plan to emphasize in the Journal those theoretical developments and research results which are immediately interesting to many and which it is hoped will be of great ultimate value to all, as the theory of today becomes the practice of the future.

The success of this venture will depend largely on the contributors of articles, and we hope to be able to give them every possible encouragement. We will try to accomplish the necessary editorial duties expeditiously.

It is to be hoped that our subscriber list will grow and that many readers will inform us of their views on the Journal, particularly how it can be improved. In such an undertaking it is impossible for those few of us directly concerned to think of all refinements, and the readers' opinions will certainly be welcomed.

The editor feels that particular recognition is due to the reviewers, that large and here nameless list of men whose efforts given so freely have made this issue possible. The help of the Publications Committee, the Advisory Board, the Publisher, and the Manuscript Editor is also acknowledged.

HARDING BLISS