

# A SECOND GLANCE

It is a pleasure to observe in the second issue of the *A.I. Ch. E. Journal* that a rather wide coverage of the field of chemical engineering has been accomplished. Thermodynamics and unit operations are the preponderant subjects, but kinetics and new techniques and theories are also encountered. The continuing expansion of chemical engineering is such that many more fine articles may be expected in the future. The literature in this field seems to behave like the circumference of a circle (or perhaps rather like the surface of a sphere) in that each development breeds new opportunities for further exploration and publication. There is no shortage of excellent papers coming to the editorial offices; and we have a substantial back log from which to select. This aspect of the editor's job is both pleasing and easy.

Mere quantity, of course, does not represent a particularly suitable aim or publication policy unless it is matched with quality. High standards in this regard have been set for us in the former *Transactions of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers* and in *Chemical Engineering Progress*, and we intend to maintain them. One can list easily many distinguished and significant papers appearing in those publications in past years which have opened up whole new fields of inquiry. Such papers bring in their train a series of solid observations and generalizations of great value. It is our hope that the *A.I.Ch.E. Journal* will be as fortunate in bringing to the readers so many original and pioneering contributions.

The geographical distribution of the authors in this issue is also worthy of attention. As was to be expected, most of the articles originated in the American universities, and certainly the prize for

this issue must go to the Midwestern ones. It is disappointing that so few papers have come to us from industrial groups, and we hope for much more representation from them in the future.

Our expanded publishing program which has brought forth the *A.I.Ch.E. Journal* will also bring many problems. Chief among these is, of course, the financial one. The editor's constant insistence on paring and eliminating must sometimes be disappointing to authors, and he fears greatly for whatever personal popularity he may have once had. One of the main concerns is the problem of original data. Such data have been made available at the American Documentation Institute, and great economy results thereby because tabulations of data are very expensive to print. Treatment of the data and correlations and generalizations about them are ordinarily to be published in the magazine. Such correlations, however, also involve tabular presentations with consequent high printing costs. The editor feels that there might be much merit in confining the author's treatment thereof to graphs, which are less expensive, and to the text. There are exceptions to this dictum, of course, particularly when the manner of interpretation is clearly established. An example is *PVT* data, where presentation as "smoothed" compressibility factors or residuals is universal. In many fields, however, improvements in interpretation are constantly being made, and one of the aims of the *Journal* is to present these, both for application and for further refining. As this matter of economy is at present of paramount interest in the presentation of new developments in chemical engineering, observations on this matter would be welcomed from readers.

H. B.