

## THE YEAR ONE

With this December issue of the *A.I.Ch.E. Journal* we complete our first year of publication. The infant has been, on the whole, well behaved and it is hoped that the officers and directors of the Institute, who should claim the honor of parenthood, will feel some pride in it. The editor, who may be said to stand in the position of godfather, feels that the youngster is at least holding his own. All difficulties which have been experienced are certainly minor when compared with the abundant help freely given by all concerned.

It is a great pleasure to be able to report that our circulation has grown rapidly, in particular that it has been increased by 25% since the first issue. This increase, we hope, indicates general satisfaction with our efforts, but it also implies that there was a very great need for a publication of this sort and that the officers and directors decided wisely in setting forth on this venture.

It was realized at the outset that this journal would have its principal appeal to chemical engineers in research and development, whether they were pursuing these interests in academic life or in industry. There was some fear, on the editor's part at least, that the contributions of the academicians might far outweigh those of industrialists. It is, therefore, particularly gratifying to see that about one third of the papers of the September and December issues originated in industry. It is still our great hope that this proportion will rise, as the research and development engineers in industry have much to tell their academic colleagues. The opposite is also true, of course, but the flow of information in this direction has always been fairly abundant. There has been in academic circles a quite justifiable tendency to simplify the problem, to delimit the system in such a manner that an answer could be found. Industrialists, on the other hand, are more often concerned with problems for which the answer must be found. The interplay of these

two approaches can be enormously fruitful for all of us: the industrialist will find new ideas in the universities to help with his solutions and the university people will learn what directions are interesting and, perhaps, what simplifying assumptions are or are not justified. We hope that the *A.I.Ch.E. Journal* will bring together as many different ideas and approaches as possible. Examples of what we may expect in this regard are found in two papers scheduled for early next year in which entrainment behavior and plate efficiencies in large commercial towers are reported on and compared with theoretical work in simplified and idealized systems carried out in university laboratories.

The subject matter covered in this first year has been satisfactorily broad. The unit operations, thermodynamics, and kinetics, on which the science of chemical engineering is based, have been represented in many papers. The powerful assistance of advanced mathematics has been called into play in many instances, and it is hoped that this will please the already well versed and stimulate the rest to a new appreciation and respect for such assistance and a new zeal to review and refresh their comprehension of mathematics.

In our ensuing years we hope to expand our coverage of research in chemical engineering, and the editor will welcome suggestions as to how this aim may be best accomplished and how the *Journal* may, in general, be improved.

This review of our first year can best be concluded with a broad acknowledgment of the gratitude due to many people who have given invaluable assistance: the authors and reviewers of our papers, the officers and directors of the Institute, and particularly the Publisher, the Advisory Board, various members who have volunteered many fine ideas and criticisms, and the staff assistants.

H. B.