

EDITORIAL

THE CONTINUING GROWTH OF "BIOCHEMICAL PHARMACOLOGY"

THERE are some points arising out of a recent meeting of Editors of which Readers and Contributors to this Journal should be aware.

(1) The Journal is expanding rapidly and some degree of control over this is necessary if the Subscription rates are not to be much increased. The Editors decided that the whole field of Biochemical Pharmacology should continue to be covered; but there is some need to restrict acceptance more definitely to papers having a bearing on the mode of action of drugs at the intracellular level. This means that the Editors in future may look more closely at the acceptance of papers dealing only with urinary excretion or with the whole animal. At the same time, there is no intention to exclude the vital area of enzymatic mechanisms of drug metabolism.

(2) The Editors wish to draw attention to the existence of the Index to Volumes 1 to 15. Starting with the current Volume 18, it is their intention that a subject index should be published for each volume as soon as possible in the following year. At intervals of five years all the indexes will be combined to make a cumulative index. Arrangements will be made to complete indexes to Volumes 16 and 17 as soon as possible.

(3) The subject of speed of publication was discussed at length. The publishers will make every effort to maintain a rapid speed of publication in the future. At the same time, it emerged in the discussion that often the fault lay in a failure to return manuscripts and proofs sufficiently quickly. This is particularly important when documents have to travel overseas. All of these should be sent by Air Mail, and particular care should be taken to make certain that the postage is adequate; otherwise envelopes are apt to be sent by Surface Mail. Delays were caused last year by postal strikes, over which the journal authorities have no control.

(4) The problem of abbreviations is always a difficult one, because recognized abbreviations save much space. We trust that the contributors will follow precisely the nomenclature and agreed abbreviations for which the procedure is laid down under "Notes to Contributors". In the case of other possible abbreviations of compounds and phenomena, abbreviations should only be used if the particular terms occur more than two or three times during the course of the paper; they should be clearly defined and should not be included in the abstract or the title.

(5) The Editors would like to record their great appreciation of the contribution made by Professor Sartorelli in keeping the American side of the Journal going after the tragic death of Professor Giarman.

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Chairman, Editorial Board