

ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW JOURNAL

Physiological Plant Pathology. An international journal of experimental plant pathology. Edited by T. F. PREECE and B. J. DEVERALL. Vol. 1, Academic Press, London. 1971, 4 issues. Price £7.00.

THE BIRTH of a new journal is not an uncommon occurrence in these days of rapidly expanding scientific endeavours. Publication of a journal delimiting an area which heretofore was considered part and parcel of the general field of plant pathology is a significant event, however. The predominance of physiological and biochemical approaches to the study of host-parasite relationships in established plant pathology journals, and the significant scattering of such contributions in other journals in ancillary areas, (e.g. *Phytochemistry*), may justify the establishment of a journal which will bring together information in this exciting area of plant science.

To many, the field of physiological plant pathology may seem still in its infancy. The uncertainty of the first few steps has been painfully imprinted in far too many articles, to be sure. It is pleasant to report, therefore, that the new journal augurs a good beginning. The quality and scope of the first nine contributions in Volume 1, No. 1 are variable, but, on the whole, one receives a favourable impression as to the general scientific merit of the first issue. The editors and publishers are to be congratulated for the clean, straightforward format, and for the high quality of the reproductions.

It will be interesting to watch the growth of this new journal. The next few years will tell, firstly, if the field is strong enough to support a journal of high scientific standards, and secondly, if indeed "well established applied journals are not harmed by the launching of a more specialized journal", as the editors hope so fervently.

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