

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Dr. Brink:

Readers of the Biophysical Journal may be interested in some of the details of its physical form.

The type face chosen, Times Roman, was one of three recommended in 1950 for use in scientific periodicals by a Committee of the Royal Society under chairmanship of Sir Solly Zuckerman. Though it was designed for *The Times* of London in 1932, it has only recently become available for Monotype composition in this country. The full range of sizes and special characters that make it so suitable for scientific printing in England are not yet available here, so that for a few issues typographic-minded readers may notice some improvisations in the mathematical formulae and tables.

We have adopted a few innovations to give the reader "swiftest access to the author's thought" in the words of Stanley Morrison, designer of Times Roman and sometime typographic adviser to *The Times*, Cambridge University Press, and the Monotype Corporation. The conventional "running heads" on each page have been dropped to the foot of the page. We believe the reader is not likely to forget what he is reading as he turns a page so we do not interrupt his eye as he resumes reading the text. Should a reader wish to write a note regarding the article, however, he will find at the foot of each pair of facing pages all that will be needed for most references. Similarly, the date of receipt of the manuscript and acknowledgments of grant support are placed at the end of the text but before the references. Finally, on the contents page (which is placed on the back cover for ready accessibility) the page numbers follow immediately after the last word in the title, instead of being aligned in a column down the right edge of the page. By not forcing the eye to jump a long gap from title to page number, a source of error is avoided.

The proportions of the page approximate the Pythagorean Golden Section ($1:\frac{1}{2}\{\sqrt{5}-1\}$), a matter largely of esthetics, but the length of line, the space between lines, and the size of type provide what is believed to be optimum legibility. Closer spacing, smaller type or shorter lines (the familiar double-column format) might save something in over-all economy, but at the price of lower legibility and some awkward (and costly) problems with long equations.

These matters need not concern readers, as long as they are handled well, but I report them with the thought that biophysicists may be interested in details of the design of a relatively efficient and noise-free new channel for transmitting scientific information from one laboratory to many.

CHARLES I. CAMPBELL, Director
The Rockefeller Institute Press

Brief letters to the Editor that make specific scientific reference to papers published previously in the BIOPHYSICAL JOURNAL are invited. Receipt of such letters will not be acknowledged but those containing pertinent scientific comments and scientific criticisms will be published.