

Editorial

Environment and reactions

Modern life is driven by information exchange. In our professional lives we are having to deal with a swelling river of information, telling us of new science and technology, new applications, new financial and managerial arrangements. We are seeing new companies emerge, servicing whole new sectors of industry which are growing extremely rapidly -- and sometimes withering rapidly too.

In our turn, we as editors and publishers of the Chemical Engineering Journal are contributing to this information flow. It is our policy to bring you interesting and up-to-date information on developments in our science and technology, in a way that makes that information readily accessible. The medium for this is the carefully reviewed paper -- a traditional medium perhaps, but offering the advantages of selection and quality control that are sorely needed in this time of information overload.

To tune ourselves better to the requirements of the readership, the editors and publishers have decided to introduce some grouping of the material published in Chemical Engineering Journal, giving a clearer profile to two particular areas -- **Environmental Chemical Engineering**, and **Chemical Reaction Engineering**. Papers in the whole field of chemical engineering are still acceptable of course, and will be published together in a general section if they fall outside the two areas mentioned above.

We are all aware of the growing interest in environmental matters, but the scientific contribution of chemical engineers in this area is still at a very early stage. Much that is being done now is qualitative and descriptive. There are grand opportunities in this area for the quantitative and systems approach of chemical engineering. Moreover, as the objectives of Sustainable Development become more widely accepted, and the consequences better worked out, we think that the need for environmental chemical engineering will only increase.

Chemical reaction engineering is another vital area of application, whether it is the engineering of new catalytic materials and processes using them, or the modelling and modification of complex biological systems. The range of skills required of reaction engineers is wide indeed.

The accompanying note explains these changes in layout in more detail, and also introduces the people involved. We hope you enjoy reading the new Journal.

Richard Darton
(Editor)