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Editorial

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Editorial

Having reached the final part of the first volume of the Journal, it seems reasonable to take stock of progress thus far. Bearing in mind, the objectives originally defined it is apparent that the "flavour" is too strongly marine, too little terrestrial and fresh water, and even less of the interactions between the three. Given the difficult times that scientists everywhere are facing, the inevitable result must be to work towards strictly limited objectives and practical ends. Nevertheless, the aim must still remain the wider view and the effective interaction of chemists and ecologists: it would be unfortunate if it were to end up as merely a forum for one of these groups alone.

I do not see it as a proper role for an editor to contribute papers to the journal being edited, except in special circumstances. Thus in the first issue, it was my intention to convey the breadth of contribution which I hoped to secure for *Chemistry in Ecology*. Now I would like to reaffirm this view by including a paper on litter in coastal sediments. We know, indeed have known for a long time that litter may adsorb substantial amounts of heavy metals and radioactive nuclides, and is an important food source for many organisms either directly or indirectly as detritus. The inputs to coastal waters are very variable and the terrestrial component may be surprisingly large. Yet we know remarkably little about the role and mode of breakdown of this material once it has reached coastal and estuarine sediments; we know still less of the chemical influences which it exerts. That such influences are likely is evident from a consideration of the interesting paper by J. W. Barko and R. M. Smart on "Effects of Organic Matter Additions to Sediment on the Growth of Aquatic Plants" in the *Journal of Ecology* (1983), 71, 161-175. It is hoped that volume 2 of *Chemistry in Ecology* will receive contributions from this and similar areas of interaction in addition to the kind of contributions which have appeared in volume 1. It would also be particularly gratifying to increase the proportion of papers devoted to non-marine topics.

E. J. PERKINS