

## A Year Completed

WITH THIS ISSUE, the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CHEMISTRY begins its second year of life. We begin this period with a feeling of accomplishment and optimism. The journal was started with the objective of disseminating information on new developments in research and production devoted to the improvement of the feeding of the people of the world.

The scope of this journal has been greater than we have been accustomed to seeing in the service of agriculture or the food industry. The inclusion of agricultural and food chemistry into one area was done with considerable forethought. It was done with the conviction that with the progress that will come from scientific and technological discovery and practice, the various fields within this area will become increasingly interdependent. Perhaps we should say that these fields will become more apparently interdependent, for already they are significantly related. The solution of the problem of better feeding of our people depends on better care of the soil, better protection of the crops, better processing of our foods, and improvement in every link in this chain of steps which lead from seed to plate.

Already we observe an increasing awareness on the part of some of our readers of these important relationships among the scientific fields included in the areas of agricultural and food chemistry. Agricultural chemicals are not being developed by the chemist alone, but with the cooperation of the entomologist, the plant physiologist and pathologist, and many others. The food processor is vitally interested in the research and development by those people. The nutritionist also must have a sense of what is going on in the science of crop production and food processing. Those who have any position in this interrelated group of technical fields and who are best informed on development in the other fields will be in a most advantageous spot to make progress.

The reception of this journal by our readers has been gratifying. From a beginning circulation which exceeded our most optimistic predictions, subscriptions have increased strongly and continue to do so. The influx of scientific papers to be considered for publication has shown a gratifying increase which indicates that this journal is an accepted medium for the dissemination of scientific research information.

AG AND FOOD admittedly has had a certain amount of experimental character. The incorporation of news material, special departments, and scientific research papers into a single publication has been a departure from the standard practice for either technical news magazines or scientific journals. The response has been highly favorable. The idea that the research scientists, the production man, the market development



**WALTER J. MURPHY, Editor**

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specialist, the salesman, and others in diverse pursuits might gain from information about developments in all types of work related to their area of science and industry already was actively supported. But the practice of the idea in AG AND FOOD appears to have been convincing to some who doubted that a scientific journal departing from the standard style of times past could be professional.

The style of presentation of scientific papers also has varied from that generally found. One basic idea of our style was to offer a system which would give the reader a screening mechanism whereby with a minimum expenditure of time, he could determine if a paper might be of interest to him. A relatively small amount of reading makes it possible for the reader to know the general nature of research findings without delving into details where he is not a specialist.

Recently we polled our 1953 authors—for their opinions both as authors and readers—as to whether the system as we use it is satisfactory. The results of the poll, based on a return of nearly 50% of the questionnaires, have indicated strong support which was enthusiastic in a gratifying percentage.

We were exceedingly fortunate in gaining the services of Philip H. Groggins as a consulting editor during our first year. Mr. Groggins' rich background of experience and his knowledge of the industries we serve has been a valuable aid in guidance during the period of first growth. He joined us in the beginning of his "retirement." Not being a man readily adaptable to retirement, he is finding the press of his commitments so great that at the end of his first year of service with AG AND FOOD, he has asked to be relieved of his duties. His page, *The Observation Post*, will be continued with guest writers.

For the future we plan to continue development along the lines of our current progress. We feel confident of our acceptance as a scientific journal and foresee increasing attention to our area of interests, both in research and production. The population of the United States is increasing rapidly, while tillable acres cannot be increased comparably. For the moment we have food surpluses, but that situation is not permanent. The world as a whole constantly is short of food. More effective and efficient use of our natural resources is necessary. The answer lies through the increase of knowledge and its sound application. AG AND FOOD is dedicated to that purpose. We look forward to an active future of service.