

THE *JOURNAL OF CHROMATOGRAPHY*: THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY

1983 is a remarkably important year in the history of chromatography. It heralds not only the 80th anniversary of the presentation of Tswett's paper entitled "On a new category of adsorption phenomena and their application to biochemical analysis"—that is, the discovery of chromatography—but also the 75th birthday of the technique's rediscoverer, Edgar Lederer, and the 25th anniversary of the *Journal of Chromatography*, edited since its inception by Michael Lederer.

Aside from the explosive growth in the importance of chromatographic methods, especially during the last quarter of a century, another notable feature has been the association of the Lederer family with the technique. As already mentioned, it was Edgar Lederer who in 1931, some ten years after Tswett's death, rediscovered the "forgotten" method and applied it to the investigation of natural substances. His cousin, Michael Lederer, made a number of important advances in chromatography and electrophoresis in the late 1940's and early 1950's, and their collaborative authorship during those years led to the publication of several standard works.

When the idea of the *Journal of Chromatography* was conceived in 1957 it could scarcely have been anticipated that in the course of 25 years the quantity of work would increase at such a rate that the initial one volume per year would already have become 27 volumes, or that 7 of these would be devoted solely to biomedical applications (edited by Dr. K. Macek). This in spite of the fact that other competing journals have been set up in the intervening years.

As to competing journals, suffice it to say that according to a recent publication¹, the *Journal of Chromatography* is the ninth most important chemistry research journal, followed in tenth place by *Analytical Chemistry*.

No other journal devoted exclusively to chromatography appears in the top fifty.

All the indications are that the techniques will continue to grow in importance—certainly new developments and new applications show no sign of diminishing. In order to make the vast amount of information available in the *Journal of Chromatography* more accessible, it has been decided to publish this Cumulative Index for Volumes 151–250. At a later date, an Index for Volumes 101–150 will be published. Almost 25 years and the first 250 volumes will then be covered in only four indexes.

We trust that the next quarter century will build further on the strengths of the first

THE PUBLISHER

REFERENCE

- 1 J. Emsley, *New Sci.*, No. 1298 (1982) 797.