

NEW EDITORIAL OFFICES IN EUROPE AND ASIA

We are pleased to announce that two additional editorial offices for this Journal will open in January 1967: one in Europe headed by Dr. George Popják at the Chemical Enzymology Laboratory in Sittingbourne, Kent, England, and one in Asia under Dr. James Allen Olson at the Department of Biochemistry, University of Medical Sciences, in Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Olson was until recently Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida and has now accepted a long-term assignment in Thailand under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation; he has been a member of the Editorial Board since 1961. Dr. Popják has been a Corresponding Editor of this journal since 1959 and has kept closely in touch with its plans and policies throughout its existence.

Since the inception of this Journal, we have always striven to maintain an international outlook, and have been aided in that aim by the wise and valuable counsel of our Corresponding Editors. That we have succeeded to a heartening degree is attested by the facts that 1178, or 48% of our subscribers are outside the USA, and that each year about 25% of our articles are written by authors overseas. By the new arrangement, we hope that the journal will be brought still closer to our future contributors overseas, both in spirit and in the rapidity with which manuscripts are handled.

The new procedure for the submission of manuscripts will differ only slightly from the present one. An author may now submit a manuscript to any one of the three offices (Bangkok, New York, or Sittingbourne), but most naturally would choose the office closest to his laboratory. Dr. Popják and Dr. Olson will then act as subeditors for manuscripts sent directly to them, and will advise me on a course of action. In order that the editorial policy may remain consistent, however, the final decision will, in all instances, rest with me in the New York office, and I will correspond directly with the author as in the past. All accepted manuscripts will also be processed for publication in New York.

Because the activities of Doctors Popják and Olson will closely resemble those of current members of the Editorial Board living in the United States, readers and contributors (actual or potential) may be interested in

learning our present procedure for handling manuscripts. Each submitted manuscript is first considered in detail by a member of the Editorial Board who is selected for his competence in the field of research under discussion by the authors. This member of the Editorial Board becomes the subeditor for the manuscript and in turn selects, from his own knowledge of the workers in the field, one or more reviewers from some institution other than his own. With the aid of these reviews, and in the light of his own critical evaluation of the manuscript, the subeditor makes a recommendation to the Editor in the form of a draft letter to the author concerning the manuscript's acceptability.

All comments and correspondence from the reviewers and subeditor are then considered by the Executive Editor who, if the recommendations are generally favorable, examines the manuscript in detail for clarity, conciseness, economy of tabular and graphical presentation, and logical development, and makes editorial suggestions for consideration by the author. Lastly, the Associate Editor and I check carefully to ensure that reviewers and subeditors have been fair to the author in all respects. If uncertainties still remain, the manuscript may be sent to yet other reviewers for further assessment. The final letter sent to the author is the result of the combined efforts of at least two, and sometimes four, members of our Board and Editorial Office.

This process may seem unnecessarily lengthy and cumbersome, yet our record for promptness of response to authors compares well with that of other high-quality journals. Further, we believe that our system ensures that no manuscript is rejected because of any one man's prejudice or misunderstanding, that new and unusual ideas enjoy a hearing, and that experimental work and ideas are clearly and meaningfully communicated to readers of all lands.

I would like at this point to express my gratitude to the retiring Corresponding Editors for their seven-year tour of duty for the Journal, and to Doctors Popják and Olson for having assumed their new responsibilities with us.

E. H. AHRENS, JR.