

## THE RECENT CHANGE IN EDITORS

In editorials published in the July and September (1970) issues, the Journal's new Editor, Dr. Maurice M. Rapport, described the recent association of the Journal with FASEB and the functions of a newly constituted Committee of Associate Editors. He then invited me, as the former Editor, to comment on editorial outlooks of the Journal.

I remember clearly my laboratory colleagues' enthusiastic reception in 1957 of an idea for a journal specializing in lipid research. The idea and its implications were appropriately discussed in the doorway to the room in which Doctors A. T. James and W. Insull, Jr., had just erected our first gas chromatograph, a room murky with the mystique of column-packing and already littered with more data than we knew how to handle. But I recall also the coolness with which the idea was received by other colleagues: "Please, no, not another journal." However, it came to pass (as Dr. Rapport described in July), and I firmly believe that the efforts of each successive Editor (Zilversmit, Steinberg, Ahrens, and Rapport), with the indispensable assistance of more than 60 successive Editorial Board members, have justified the formation of "another journal" by creating and operating one that has consistently held to the highest standards of scientific excellence and editorial presentation. I am not judging the product on the basis of esthetic appeal or clean typography, or on the fiscal soundness obtained at a relatively low cost to readers and authors (but at a high cost in time and effort to those who managed these affairs). I base my judgment on the pride with which authors publish in its pages and on the high regard in which it is held by our scientific peers: reviewers of grant applications, admissions committees of professional societies, and faculty committees pay close attention to the quality of the journals in which fellow scientists

publish, and I am repeatedly told that this Journal is consistently rated among the most prestigious.

Every Editor's personal tastes in writing (and in judging the writing of others) can be expected to differ, and to the extent that the new Editor (Maurice M. Rapport) and Executive Editor (Lewis I. Gidez) have different tastes from those of their immediate predecessors (myself and F. Peter Woodford), some changes can be expected in the way the Journal interacts with its authors, editors, and readers. I know that Doctors Rapport and Gidez will continue to seek clarity and logical organization in the manuscripts submitted to them, and in their own way they will offer authors constructive evaluations by reviewers, as well as courtesy and speed of publication. I believe they will not emphasize the niceties of editorial style as much as we did, and this may be all to the good, for after 11 years of publication a certain pattern has been set in this Journal. Because our new Biochemist-Editors are supported by a group of Associate Editors with a broad spectrum of backgrounds, interests, and expertness, and because (through the new arrangements made with FASEB) they will be freed from the harassing duty of overseeing the financial aspects of journal operation I expect they will concentrate on substantive scientific issues more effectively than Woodford and I could in our 6 years in the Editorial Office. In other words, I anticipate no purposeful relaxation in the quest for high quality, and I expect to see the results of greater skill in dealing with a broader span of scientific areas in the field of lipid research.

I am certain that our authors and subscribers will join me in welcoming Doctors Rapport and Gidez as the new Editors and in thanking them, in advance, for their generous donation of precious time and talent in seeking to publish an ever-better *Journal of Lipid Research*.

E. H. AHRENS, JR.  
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