

Why another journal?

As yet another manifestation of the literature explosion and its consequences, the appearance of this new international journal will no doubt not be well received in some quarters. In a field where several good journals already exist, this point of view is understandable. The decision to launch this journal has however only been taken after several years of investigating the needs, discussing the aims and objects (and heart-searching!).

Many exciting developments in electrochemical science have taken place in recent years but generally electrochemical technology has not progressed to anywhere near the same extent, except in a few fields (e.g. fuel cells for space applications) where large numbers of scientists have been deployed on crash programmes.

The ramifications of electrochemical 'know-how' are far reaching. Many of our existing non-electrochemical technological processes will have to be converted to ones based on electrochemical reactions if the environment and quality of civilised life on this planet are to be preserved. Electrochemically-based power generation and storage units offer many advantages in this direction. Again, electrochemistry underlies much of the biology of the human body. Although much has been done in these fields, much more remains to be done; one of the aims of this journal is thus to focus attention upon and stimulate interest in these interdisciplinary and technological aspects of electrochemistry. We hope that it will supplement the existing journals in the field, particularly those which do not seem to receive many papers from industrial sources.

Another aim of our editorial policy is to try to ensure that the published papers are interesting, stimulating and useful to both specialists in the particular topics as well as to other electrochemists. To this end, the types of paper acceptable section of the 'Instructions to authors' is commended to your attention.

The point that some authors based in industrial establishments may often not be sufficiently motivated to publish, needs to be highlighted and combated. Most university work is committed, and rightly so, to the development and extension of fundamental truths. Industry is mainly concerned with data, information, well-documented relationships, in fact anything which advances their ability to manufacture a technologically better product. If appropriate, papers and technical notes which we receive from industry will be judged on this basis to determine whether they represent good applied science and whether as such they should be published. We hope that these industrial papers will stimulate more fundamental work on practical (and thus complex) systems. In addition we hope that the basic papers concerned with the fundamental aspects of novel but 'simple' systems will encourage technologists in both industry and the universities to apply some of these systems, ideas and techniques to industrial problems.

We see the furthering of this two-way interaction as our most important function.