EDITORIAL

During the past several years the American Chemical Society has been developing methods of utilizing digital computers to prepare the content of scientific manuscripts for photocomposition. This program has been largely supported by the National Science Foundation as part of the over-all ACS program to develop the use of the computer in scientific publication. In principle, the computer-aided typesetting process consists of encoding the manuscript, unjustified and unhyphenated, on a paper tape using a Frieden Flexowriter. The material is processed in a computer to produce a justified and hyphenated tape to operate the Photon photocomposing machine. In addition to expanding the potential for handling scientific information in coded form, the process is expected to result in significant cost savings when fully operational. A number of manuscripts for the JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL AND ENGINEERING DATA have been photocomposed by use of a computer over the past year. It is expected that beginning with the current issue, all papers in this journal will be composed by the ACS computer process.

There has been an increase in the preparation of detailed tabular material for use by scientists and engineers, notably by the Office of Standard Reference Data located at the National Bureau of Standards. As a result, there is a need to bring such material to the attention of interested persons. With such an objective in view, a short abstract of each important compilation coming to the attention of the editors will be published in this Journal. Each compilation that is described will have been reviewed.

Errata are published as rapidly as they become available. In the future, all of the errata appearing during a given year will be assembled and republished in the final issue of the annual period in order that they may be more available to readers for correcting articles appearing during the year.

Some progress has been made in reducing the time interval between receipt of a manuscript and its publication. In 1967, 181 manuscripts were published. Of those, 28% were published six months after receipt, 74% in nine months, and 89% in 12 months. Continued efforts in this direction will be made, but it must be recognized that in the case of a quarterly that a decrease in average publication delay, significantly below six months, is not feasible. There is a wide disparity in the publication delay from manuscript to manuscript depending on the course of the material through the review procedure and the time an author spends on revision.