

## An editorial announcement

The *Journal of Materials Science* has grown from small beginnings in 1966 to its present position as the principal international forum for materials science: we are currently printing 150 pages a month. We have now reached a turning point in our development.

The preface to another publication, the latest volume of the *Annual Review of Materials Science*, points out that 'it becomes increasingly clear that the answer to the question "Just what is materials science?" must be given by showing rather than by telling'. That has been exactly our editorial policy in the formative stages of the *Journal of Materials Science*; and in pursuit of that policy we have operated from the beginning as a closely knit team of six working editors, spanning between us the whole gamut of the discipline. We have helped to define the field and have established our standards by taking thousands of independent decisions while meeting regularly to agree our strategy.

Our existing method of working has become steadily more intricate and time-consuming as the *Journal* has grown, while the Publishers and their staff have worked wonders to maintain production to high standards and to schedule. We have, therefore, decided that the time has come to appoint a London-based Executive Editor to take responsibility for the day-to-day editorial functions of the *Journal*, and to maintain constant liaison with the Publishers. He has become a member of the existing Editorial Board, which will continue to meet regularly, as hitherto, to settle the *Journal's* policy. Our stringent refereeing procedure will be continued: the large "invisible college" of referees which we have built up over seven years will, we are confident, continue to help us; the existing editors will also continue to exercise a major refereeing function and, moreover, to help with specialized categories of papers such as review articles and book reviews.

The new Executive Editor is Dr W. Bonfield, Reader in Materials Science in the Department of Materials, Queen Mary College (of the University of London), Mile End Road, London, E1 4NS. *In future manuscripts should be sent direct to Dr Bonfield.* Dr Bonfield is a metallurgist by education, and his personal research interests encompass physical metallurgy, composite materials and biological materials.

We, the Editorial Board, look forward to helping him in ensuring the continuing success of the *Journal*. We are convinced that the co-operation of several editors of complementary skills was essential to building up the *Journal* effectively and remains essential to its continuing development. We have defined its scope by "showing rather than telling"; that scope will continue to change as materials science evolves, but the outlines are now clear. We are confident that the *Journal* will continue to develop and flourish.

R. W. CAHN

*Chairman of Editorial Board*