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## Editorial

Patrick D. Wall

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## EDITORIAL

### **Philosophical Transactions is changing**

Starting 1 July 1997, research papers will no longer be accepted for consideration for publication in *Philosophical Transactions B*. Instead, they will be transferred for consideration by the Editor of *Proceedings B*.

*Proceedings B* will continue its policy of rapid publication of brief research reports.

When the Editor of *Proceedings B* receives a long research paper, it will be reviewed in the usual way, the timescale being longer due to the larger volume of material in these cases. If it is accepted for publication, a brief version of the paper will appear in print in the form used for research reports in *Proceedings B*, normally less than eight pages in length. In addition, an appendix, prepared by the author and approved by the Editor of *Proceedings B*, can be made available by the Royal Society on its Internet facilities. The authors of the paper will be responsible for preparing the electronic copy of any appendix, but the Editor's decision on its suitability for dissemination will be final. The first, introductory part of the paper for publication will be processed by the staff of the Royal Society.

Starting 1 January 1998, *Philosophical Transactions B* will adopt its new form. The journal will continue to publish papers of the Discussion Meetings of the Royal Society. In addition, it will accept 'themes' in which an entire issue is taken up with a series of review papers on a given broad subject. The journal will also accept thoughtful extensive reviews, or monographs, on a single topic. Authors are urged to write to the Editor with brief proposals for theme issues or for exploratory speculative reviews.

In this way, the two journals, *Proceedings* and *Philosophical Transactions*, will adopt clearly separated tasks. *Proceedings* will publish research papers with the option of extended appendices on the Internet. *Philosophical Transactions* will concentrate on reports of Discussion Meetings, theme issues and reviews. (The two A-side journals have been reorganized in a similar way.)

The success of the new form *Philosophical Transactions B* will depend on authors making proposals to take advantage of the opportunity to publish provocative reviews on topics of contemporary interest. You will receive every possible assistance: do contact me or the editorial office at the Royal Society.

PATRICK D. WALL