

Dawn of a New Era

THIS ISSUE OF POLYMER marks a further landmark in the continuing development of the journal – almost the beginning of a new era. Various changes in scope and structure have been made which might benefit from expansion in this column.

In January the journal's sub-title was altered to exclude any reference to biopolymers in preparation for the launch next month of POLYMER's new sister journal, the *International Journal of Biological Macromolecules*. This new journal will publish from this exciting and rapidly developing branch of science, papers which previously have appeared in POLYMER and other macromolecular science journals or fragmentally in a whole range of biochemical/biophysical journals. Hence, papers dealing with macromolecules of a biological origin will no longer be acceptable in POLYMER, although there may well be papers from the grey area where experimental methods are emphasized which are acceptable to either journal. The Editors of both journals will be pleased to advise authors if guidance is sought.

With the departure of strictly biological macromolecules from the scope of POLYMER, it is timely also to thank Morton Bradbury for his efforts as an Editor of POLYMER over the last ten years as he takes up a new appointment in California. He will, of course, be associated with the *International Journal of Biological Macromolecules*, but his contributions to POLYMER both as author and Editor will not be forgotten. It is interesting to note that in the ten years, 1969–1978, the proportion of papers published in POLYMER dealing with biopolymers jumped from under 2% to nearly 15% during which time the total size of POLYMER increased five-fold. Quantity is not necessarily always accompanied by quality, but in this case it has – largely due to a standard set by Morton Bradbury. We wish him well in his new appointment.

Quality has certainly always been the hallmark of another POLYMER Editor, Professor Geoffrey Gee FRS, who has decided to resign from the board. An Editor since the journal's inception in 1960, Geoffrey Gee has guided its editorial development and maintained its standard to the very highest of his ability. POLYMER's own tribute to his scientific career was published in November 1976 (*Polymer*, 17, 931–932) when that issue was dedicated to him and the Conference in Manchester held in March 1976 which had marked his retirement from the Sir Samuel Hall chair of chemistry. Now, all the Editors of POLYMER and the Publishers would like to take this opportunity of expressing their gratitude to Geoffrey Gee for his loyal association and friendship, as well as his professional expertise, over the past twenty years; we wish him a happy retirement.

We are also pleased to announce the appointment of four new Editors, with Dr Roger Epton, Dr Frank Hartley, Professor Anthony Ledwith and Professor Alastair North agreeing to join the Board. In welcoming them, it should be added that they have all been associated with POLYMER in various capacities over the years. One aspect of these appointments to be highlighted is that of Roger Epton to act as Coordinating Editor for the Short Communications section of the journal, which comprises Notes to the Editor and Letters. Potential authors ought to be aware of the rapid publication time that this section affords; in an attempt to develop the section and to reduce any delays, manuscripts intended as Notes to the Editor or Letters may be submitted direct to Dr Epton, as well as the Guildford Office, or the office of our US Associate Editor.

C. J. Rawlins